TUESDAY
April 18, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
14 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

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Vol.54 • No.91

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

BREWING TROUBLE

BJP MLAs complain against Manipur CM

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FIRST CENSUS

Rare pittas find a haven in Odisha

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Kharge writes to PM seeking caste census

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DATA POINT

Mapping the country's export hotspots

Jamnagar is the top exporting district

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HUMDINGER

CSK prevails over RCB in high-scoring match

SPORT » PAGE 13

Q4 investments at all-time high of ₹14.6 lakh crore

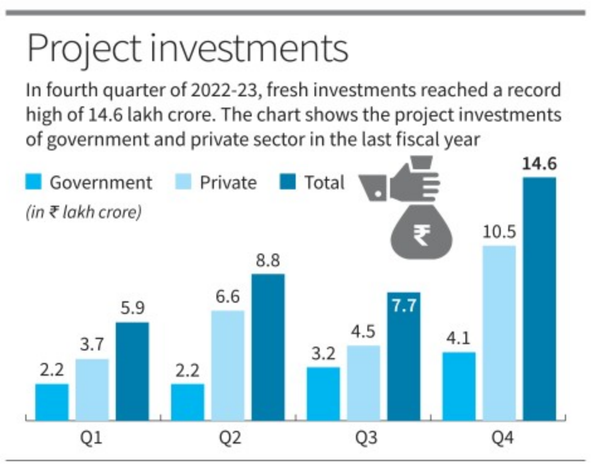
Of this, private sector outlays account for ₹10.5 lakh crore; total new investment projects touch fresh peak of ₹37 lakh cr.; manufacturing sector surges from figures of previous three quarters

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's investments narrative closed last year with a bang, as the January-to-March quarter recorded the highest-ever total fresh investments of ₹14.6 lakh crore, led by private sector outlays that also hit an all-time high of ₹10.5 lakh crore.

The fourth-quarter spurt, driven also by a record uptick in manufacturing investments, lifted the total new investment projects announced in India during a financial year to a fresh peak of ₹37 lakh crore in 2022-23.

This constituted a 92% surge over the ₹19.27 lakh crore of investments announced in 2021-22, as per data from investment monitoring firm Projects Today shared with *The Hindu*. Projects Today has been monitoring investment project announcements since the year 2000.



The fourth quarter of 2022-23 also saw a significant shift in the nature of investments, with private sector manufacturing investments resuming the lead role of capital formation from public sector-driven infrastructure-focused capex that had been propping up the metric in recent times. This trend should be music to the ears of the government that has outlined a ₹10 lakh crore capital investment plan for 2023-24, but has been repeatedly exhorting the private sector to invest more to boost economic growth amid a slowing world economy. Indian industry had been citing high inflation, uneven consumption demand and rising interest rates as factors for the reluctance to raise production capacities.

New manufacturing investments in Q4 of 2022-23 were almost three times the average in the previous three quarters at almost ₹9.6 lakh crore, with the share of planned manufacturing outlays jumping from an average of 45% of total investments announced in the first three quarters to almost 66%.

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Demand for same-sex marriage's recognition is 'urban elitist view': Centre

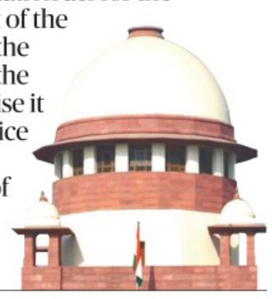
Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Centre told the Supreme Court on Monday that the demand for legal recognition of same-sex marriage is merely a voicing of "urban elitist views" for the purpose of social acceptance.

The court should not try judicially to create a "new social institution" by endorsing same-sex marriages. The judges should leave the task to Parliament, the people would decide whether such a "marriage of a different kind" is socially and religiously acceptable or not, the Centre said in an affidavit filed on the eve of the hearing of the same-sex marriage case before a Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud.

"Creation or recognition of a new social institution cannot be claimed as a matter of right/choice, much less a fundamental right," the Centre said. The right to personal autonomy does not include a right for the recognition of same-sex marriage.

> Marriage is considered an aspect of social policy of a nation across the world. It is within the remit of the appropriate legislature, as the elected representatives of the people, to define it, recognise it and regulate it and the choice not to recognise same-sex marriage is simply a facet of the legislative policy
> GOVERNMENT AFFIDAVIT IN SUPREME COURT



The court would adjudicate solely on the basis of petitions containing "elitist views", while the legislature, on the other hand, would take into consideration broader views and voices of the rural, semi-rural and urban population, the religious denominations, personal laws and customs and effect of same-sex unions on other laws governing marriage. The existing concept of marriage as a heterogenous institution has the sanctity of law and religion, the Centre said.

CONTINUED ON
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NEARBY

Nagaraju's total worth touches ₹1,614.5 crore

BENGALURU
Small Scale Industries Minister N. Nagaraju (MTB), who is the BJP candidate for Hoskote, has added ₹599.5 crore to his assets in the last five years. He has disclosed a net worth of over ₹1,614.5 crore, as per his nomination affidavit filed ahead of the polls. » Page 2

Army jawan arrested for Bathinda fratricidal killings

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Days after four soldiers were shot dead in their sleep at the Bathinda military station, the Punjab Police on Monday arrested a jawan on murder charge.

In their statements, the police and the Army cited personal animosity as the motive behind the killings.

A statement from the South Western Command of the Army said, "...Gunner Desai Mohan, from the Artillery unit where the incident occurred, has confessed to his involvement in stealing of an INSAS [Indian Small Arms System] rifle and killing four of his colleagues, to the police."

"As per his confession, on the early morning of April 9, 2023, he stole the weapon and a filled magazine. He then hid the weapon. On April 12, 2023 around 04.30 hours, while he was on sentry duty, he recovered the weapon from its hiding place, moved to the first floor, and killed all four personnel while they were asleep," it said.

He then threw the weapon into a sewage pit, it added.

After the shooting, an FIR was lodged under Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code and relevant sections of the Arms Act against two unidentified persons.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Bathinda, Gulneet Singh Khurana said Desai Mohan had earlier claimed to have seen two men, with faces covered, coming out of the barracks with an INSAS rifle and an axe, after the firing.

Congregation of the faithful

Night of prayers: Muslims praying at Swalat Nagar in Malappuram district of Kerala on Monday, the 27th day of the month of Ramzan, considered the holiest. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Jagadish Shettar leaves BJP for Cong., gets ticket for old seat

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

Former Karnataka Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar on Monday quit the BJP and joined the Congress ahead of the May 10 Assembly election in the State. Minutes later, Congress State unit president D.K. Shivakumar handed him the 'B' form to contest the election from the Hubballi-Dharwad Central constituency.

Mr. Shettar has won the seat six times since 1994 for the BJP, but the party denied him ticket this time.

The 67-year-old Lingayat leader joined the Congress at the party's office in Bengaluru in the presence of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Mr. Shivakumar and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Congress State campaign committee chairman M.B. Patil and party general secretary K.C. Venugopal.

Jagadish Shettar with Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge, D.K. Shivakumar and K.C. Venugopal in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

"Many in Karnataka are surprised that I have joined the Congress. For the past six months, no one understood my pain," Mr. Shettar said.

CONTINUED ON
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SC fines Mumbai Metro for seeking nod to cut more trees

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday slammed Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (MMRCL) for "taking the court for a ride" and imposed a fine of ₹10 lakh on it.

Initially threatening contempt action, a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud finally "penalised" the MMRCL for seeking permission from the Tree Authority to fell/transplant a total of 177 trees at Aarey Colony for Metro 3 car shed project when the top court had specifically given it permission only to cut 84 trees for the construction of a ramp.

"The MMRCL made an attempt to overreach the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court," the Bench, including Justices P.S. Narasimha and J.B. Pardiwala, observed in the order.

The court said it was "improper" on the part of the MMRCL to approach the Tree Authority when it knew that the only possible course of action was to move the top court for permission to cut the enhanced number of trees. "It is necessary to penalise the MMRCL for its conduct," the court observed.

It ordered the MMRCL to pay the money to the Chief Conservator of Forests in the next two weeks.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

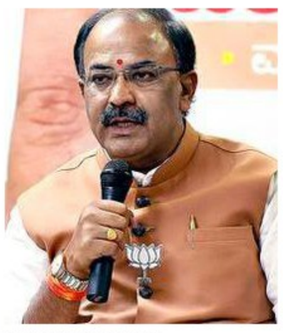
Numerous protests were held against the felling of trees for the metro project at Aarey Colony in Mumbai. AP

BJP denies ticket to Ramdas and Limbavali in third list of 10 candidates

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

Three more MLAs have missed the Bharatiya Janata Party ticket as the party released its third list of candidates for 10 Assembly constituencies on Monday for the Karnataka Assembly elections scheduled on May 10.

The party is yet to take a call on Shivamogga seat, from where former Minister K.S. Eshwarappa's son Kantesh is an aspirant, and Manvi. Former Minister and MLA from Krishnaraja of Mysuru, S.A. Ramdas, who had received an affectionate pat from Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Mysuru last year, has been denied ticket by the party.



Aravind Limbavali

In his place, the party has fielded Srivatsa.

Wife gets ticket

Similarly, another former Minister and MLA from Bengaluru's Mahadevapura (SC) constituency, Aravind Limbavali, too has been denied party ticket. In his place, the party has chosen his wife Manjula for the poll battle. In the place of former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar, who joined the Congress, the party has chosen its State general secretary Mahesh Tenginakai.

He will be taking on Mr. Shettar who is expected to contest on Congress ticket.

In Govindarajanagar of Bengaluru, whose MLA and Minister V. Somanna has been moved out to a dual contest from the high profile Varuna and Chamarajanagar, the party has fielded Umesh Shetty.

The party has given tickets to MLAs Rajkumar Patil to contest from Sedam and Kalakappa Bandi to contest from Ron. In Hebbal of Bengaluru that was long ago represented by the controversial former Minister Katta Subramanya Naidu, the party has chosen his son and former councillor Katta Jagadish.

The party has fielded Manjula Amaresh, daughter-in-law of its leader Karadi Sanganna who has rebelled, from Koppal.

The party has also given ticket to Sanjeev Aihole (Nagathan-SC) and B. Ramanna (Hagaribommanahalli-SC).

With the third list, the party has announced names of candidates for 222 of the total 224 constituencies in the State.

The party has been facing rebellion from several disappointed ticket aspirants soon after releasing the first and second list of candidates.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Wheat procured by government decreases from year-ago period

41 In lakh tonnes. The Food Corporation of India (FCI) informed that wheat procured at the minimum support price directly in the ongoing 2023-24 marketing year fell, owing to delay in harvesting and lower mandi arrivals. PTI

WPI-based inflation in March eased to a 29-month low

1.34 In percentage. The Commerce and Industry Ministry attributed the decline in inflation to easing prices of manufactured products and fuel items, though food articles turned expensive. PTI

The speed of Vande Bharat trains not reaching full potential

83 In kilometre per hour. According to an RTI query, despite being capable of hitting a maximum speed of 180 kmph, the average speed of India's fastest train has remained slower in the last two years owing to poor track conditions. PTI

The SIM cards activated using fake documents in Gujarat

29,552 cards. According to the Gujarat Crime Investigation Department, 18 sellers were arrested for allegedly selling 7,000 SIM cards using forged documents of unsuspecting customers. PTI

Myanmar's govt. releases prisoners for Lunar year holiday

3,113 prisoners. The government granted amnesty to prisoners, though it wasn't clear if the release included political detainees arrested for opposing army rule. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The petitions around same sex marriage

While a five-judge Supreme Court Bench is set to hear a series of petitions on the legal right to same sex unions, a barrage of affidavits and applications have been received from organisations across religious, social and political lines, weighing in on the issue

BACKGROUNDER

Krishnadas Rajagopal

On April 18, a five-judge Supreme Court Bench, headed by the Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, is scheduled to hear a series of petitions seeking legal recognition of same sex marriage even as a host of statutory organisations, religious bodies and NGOs have rushed to court seeking an opportunity to be heard. Their submissions touch upon various issues from the definition of "marriage" to the "psychological impact" growing up with two men or two women as parents would have on children. While some have cautioned judges that Indian society is not ready to accept same sex marriage others have linked it to sexual liberation movements in western countries.

The various petitions

Main petitioners Supriyo and Abhay Dang, represented by senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy, advocate Arundhati Katju and Govind Manoharan, argue that the non-recognition of same sex marriage amounted to discrimination that struck at the root of dignity and self-fulfillment of LGBTQIA+ couples. They reminded the court that LGBTQ+ citizens form 7 to 8% of the population of the country. The petitioners point out that the legal protection available in about 15 legislations guaranteeing the right of wages, gratuity, adoption, surrogacy, etc, were not available to LGBTQIA+ citizens.

In a related vein, the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) said that same sex couples would make equally good parents as heterosexual parents. By depriving legal status to homosexual marriages, the state is denying the legal security of dual parenthood and guardianship to the child.

Since the Netherlands' legalisation of same-sex marriages in 2000, over 34 countries have legalised same-sex marriages either through legislation or through court decisions. At present more than 50 countries allow same-sex couples to legally adopt children. A 2020 study by the *American Sociological Review* show that academic results of children raised by same-sex parents from birth outperformed children with heterosexual parents.

ISTOCKPHOTO

The stand of the government

The Union government has said that the idea of same sex marriage is merely an "urban elitist view". The judicial creation of a "new social institution" like same sex marriage cannot be claimed as a matter of right. It is the Parliament and not the courts that have to decide on same sex marriages, which is a threat to the "holy union" of marriage between a biological man and woman in India.

The State of Madhya Pradesh has also sought to intervene in the case, saying it was a "necessary stakeholder". It said the legal recognition of same sex marriage would "seriously affect" the interests of the residents of Madhya Pradesh.

Additionally, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), unlike its Delhi counterpart, argued that same sex marriage would violate the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act. The Juvenile Justice Act of 2015 prohibits a single man, let alone two men, from adopting a girl child. The NCPCR highlighted a study by the Catholic University of America which said that the emotional problems suffered by children of same sex couples were twice more than of children living with heterogenous parents.

It said a "proper legislative system needs to be adopted regarding same sex couples".

Religious bodies and NGOs

The Shri Sanatam Dharm Pratinidhi Sabha opined that the concept of same-sex marriages is "catastrophic" and that it would have a "pernicious effect" on Indian culture and society. The Hindu body quotes the Vedas, saying "those who have wives truly have a family life; those who have wives can be happy; those who have wives can have a full life". It refers to stanzas from the Manusmriti that state "to be mothers were women created, and to be fathers, men".

The Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind also opposed same-sex marriage by stating that marriage between opposite sexes is like the 'basic feature' of marriage. "Islam's prohibition of homosexuality has been categorical from the dawn of the religion of Islam itself. LGBTQIA+ movement dates back to the western sexual liberation movement," the Jamiat said.

Similarly the Telangana Markazi Shia Ulema Council also claimed that persons raised by same-sex couples were "much more likely" to suffer from depression, low academic achievement, unemployment and are more likely to smoke marijuana etc. It said that in the "West/Global North", religion has largely ceased to be a source of law and plays very little role in public life. On the other hand, religion plays an instrumental role in shaping personal law, along with social norms and family ties in India.

Additionally, the Akhil Bhartiya Sant Samiti said to "keep husband and wife together is the law of nature. 'Kanyadan' and 'Saptapadi' have basic importance in Hindu marriages." The reiterated that same sex marriage is "totally unnatural".

Bringing in a different angle, the Kanchan Foundation has submitted that deep-seated stereotypes and mental barriers that have been constructed over centuries cannot be dismantled by a mere judicial ruling. It says that Indian society requires more time to be sensitised in order to accept same sex unions and understand their impact on society.

The Call for Justice NGO argues that "marriage flows from natural law" and the "millennia-old institution" of marriage between a man and a woman is recognised across the world. Any amendments in the institution of marriage "must flow from popular will as expressed through the legislature".

THE GIST

- On April 18, a five-judge Supreme Court Bench, headed by the Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, is scheduled to hear a series of petitions seeking legal recognition of same sex marriage.
- The Union government has said that the idea of same sex marriage is merely an "urban elitist view". They said that it is the Parliament and not the courts that have to decide on same sex marriages.
- The Kanchan Foundation has submitted that deep-seated stereotypes and mental barriers that have been constructed over centuries cannot be dismantled by a mere judicial ruling.

The Meerut court verdict and the Maliana massacre

Why is the court verdict being referred to as a travesty of justice? What happened in Maliana in 1987?

Ziya Us Salam

The story so far:

Almost 36 years after the Maliana massacre in which 72 people lost their lives in May 1987, the Meerut court of additional district judge Lakhvinder Singh Sood, after more than 800 hearings, set free all the 39 accused on grounds of insufficient evidence.

What happened in Maliana?

Hashimpura and Maliana were among the earliest known cases of communal violence in western Uttar Pradesh after the locks of the Babri Masjid were opened by the Rajiv Gandhi government in 1986. The Meerut city had reported cases of Hindu-Muslim clashes in mid-May, 1987. Curfew had been imposed in the city when the Vir Bahadur Singh government sent 11 companies of the Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) to Meerut to control the riots. On May 22, the PAC landed in Hashimpura, rounded off Muslim men from the area, bundled them into waiting trucks and drove away. Some men were sent to jail in Meerut and others were taken to the Upper Ganga canal in Muradnagar at Ghaziabad and the Hindon river near the Delhi-U.P border, now part of the NCR. The men were allegedly shot dead by the PAC there.

Next day, the PAC reached Maliana and led by R.D. Tripathi, commandant of the 44th battalion, the men entered Maliana in the afternoon of May 23 and allegedly killed 72 people, all Muslims. Additionally, all the entry and exit points of Maliana had been sealed, making it impossible for the residents to flee.

How did the investigation proceed?

Then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi ordered an investigation into the massacre and later in May, Tripathi, who ordered firing in Maliana, was suspended. An FIR was filed in which 93 people were accused of the massacre. However, the FIR mentioned only civilians. Not one policeman was accused of violence. It was alleged by a local resident, Yaqub Ali, that he was forced to sign a document which he learned later was the FIR in which only civilians were named. Ali alleged he was mercilessly beaten up by the police before being compelled to sign the document. The names of the accused were apparently taken from the local voters' list. It included even those who had deceased by then. A judicial inquiry was ordered under retired High Court judge, Justice G. L. Srivastava in August, 1987. The presence of the PAC hindered fair investigation, forcing the inquiry commission to remove the Constabulary. After examining 84 public witnesses, the Commission submitted its report in July 1989. The report was not made public.

What is the current situation?

The victims saw no ray of hope for more than 30 years. Finally, a public interest litigation was filed by senior journalist Qurban Ali and Vibhuti Narain Rai, former director-general police, U.P before the Allahabad High Court in 2021. The co-petitioners were Ismail, a man who had lost 11 family members in the Maliana massacre, and M.A. Rashid. The petitioners drew the court's attention to the fact that not much progress had been made in giving justice to the massacre victims as key papers, including the FIR had gone missing. They accused the State police and PAC personnel of trying to intimidate the victims and eye witnesses. They sought a special investigation team to look into the violence of May, 1987. The court ordered the UP Government to file a counter affidavit. The case is still being heard.

The Meerut court verdict has been called a travesty of justice as no one was held guilty for the killing of 72 people. Alauddin Siddiqui, the lawyer representing the victims, expressed disappointment with the verdict stating that, "it is an abrupt decision at a time when the proceedings were still on and hearing on the 34 post-mortem reports had not taken place."He plans to approach the High Court for relief.

THE GIST

- Almost 36 years after the Maliana massacre in which 72 people lost their lives in May 1987, the Meerut court set free all the 39 accused on grounds of insufficient evidence.
- Hashimpura and Maliana were among the earliest known cases of communal violence in western U.P. after the locks of the Babri Masjid were opened by the Rajiv Gandhi government in 1986.
- The Meerut court verdict has been called a travesty of justice as no one was held guilty for the killing of 72 people.

MTB's total worth touches ₹1,614.5 crore

842 candidates file their nomination papers for the May 10 Assembly elections, after roadshows. As many as 198 are from BJP, 195 from Congress, 86 from JD(S), 50 from AAP, and 17 from BSP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president D.K. Shivakumar, Janata Dal (Secular) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy, his brother H.D. Revanna, Housing Minister V. Sommana, and B.Y. Vijayendra, son of former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, were among the 842 candidates who filed their nominations for the May 10 Assembly polls on Monday. Aspirants across parties filed their papers after massive roadshows.

There were 198 nominations from the Bharatiya Janata Party, 195 from the Congress, 86 from the JD (S), 50 from the Aam Aadmi Party, and 17 from the BSP. There were 134 nominations by registered unrecognised parties and 161 by Independents. April 20 is the last day for filing nominations.

Small Scale Industries Minister N. Nagaraju (MTB), who is the BJP candidate for Hoskote, has added ₹599.5 crore in the last five years. He has disclosed a net worth of over ₹1,614.5 crore, which includes his and his wife's, as per his nomination affidavit filed to contest in the May 10 Assembly elections.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai accompanied Housing Minister V. Somanna atop a vehicle during a roadshow before the latter filed his papers for Varuna Assembly segment on Monday.

During the previous Assembly elections in 2018, he declared assets of ₹1,015 crore, making him the richest candidate in the fray. He has movable assets worth ₹372.42 crore and immovable assets of ₹798.38 crore. He has disclosed his wife Shantakumari's movable assets of ₹163.78 crore and immovable assets of ₹274.97 crore.

The 72-year-old Kuruba leader, who has studied up to Class VIII, is a three-time legislator from the Hoskote Assembly seat in Bengaluru Rural district. He was the Housing Minister in the Congress-JD(S) coalition government.

He, along with 16 other MLAs, joined the BJP in Karnataka in 2019, and was disqualified by the Speaker under the anti-defection law for defying his party's whip.

Mr. Shivakumar, who filed his nomination from Kanakapura, is also among the richest in the fray, with total declared assets of about ₹1,358 crore owned by him and his family members. This is about 62% increase in the assets since 2018, when he declared his assets to be ₹840 crore. His liabilities in the same period increased from ₹234 crore to nearly ₹265 crore. Despite his riches, only a 2002 model SUV is registered in his name. Of the ₹970 crore immovable assets that he has declared, he has said that ₹941 crore of assets has been self acquired. He also declared that about ₹237 crore liabilities are in dispute with the Income Tax Department.

Rizwan Arshad, Congress candidate, visiting a temple before he filed his nomination papers in Bengaluru on Monday.

Karnataka Votes 2023

Mr. Shivakumar has listed a total of 19 cases against him, which includes serious charges filed by the Income Tax Department, the Enforcement Directorate, and the CBI. He has also listed six cases filed by the State government under the Epidemic Control Act for having violated the COVID-19 guidelines during the Mekedatu padayatra.

The assets of Mr. Kumaraswamy's family, including his legislator wife Anitha Kumaraswamy, have increased marginally, while the liabilities have declined since 2018. While he and later his wife (who won in the Ramanagara bypolls) in 2018 declared ₹167 crore of assets, the couple's assets grew to ₹181.29 crore this time.

Interestingly, among the assets, declared by the former Chief Minister who is contesting from Channapatna, include 20 cows worth ₹6.4 lakh and 52 sheep worth ₹6.14 lakh, besides dairy equipment worth ₹1.48 crore. The only vehicle that Mr. Kumaraswamy owns is a tractor. The family liabilities that stood at ₹104 crore ha declined to ₹76.48 crore.

Mr. Kumaraswamy has two mining cases and two land denotification cases pending against him with the Lokayukta/SIT, while a case under the Prevention of Corruption Act is pending before a Bengaluru court.

In contrast to Mr. Kumaraswamy's movable farm assets, his son Nikhil Kumaraswamy, who filed his nominations from neighbouring Ramanagara constituency, which has been vacated by his mother, owns a Range Rover and a Lamborghini Aventador.

Mr. Nikhil, who has acted in Kannada movies, also owns two vanity vans. In all, he and his wife have declared assets of about ₹77 crore. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, which he lost from Mandya, he declared assets totalling about ₹74 crore and liabilities of ₹35.36 crore.

Horticulture Minister and film producer Muniratna, who is contesting on a BJP ticket from Rajarajeshwari Nagar, has declared his family's assets to be worth ₹293 crore, a steep increase from the ₹43 crore he declared in 2018. That is a rise of 591%.

The liabilities have also increased from ₹25 crore to ₹102 crore in the same period. He owns 30 vehicles, including two-wheelers, tippers, and cars.

Mr. Vijayendra, contesting from Shikaripur constituency in Shivamogga district, and his wife Prema Vijayendra possess assets worth over ₹126.18 crore. The couple does not own a car, as per the affidavit

Mr. Somanna, who filed his papers from Varuna assembly constituency in Mysuru, and his wife together hold assets worth ₹31.61 crore.

In his affidavit submitted to the Election Commission, along with the nomination, Mr. Somanna has declared assets worth ₹10.21 crore, including ₹3.61 crore movable assets, while his wife J. Shailaja has assets worth ₹21.4 crore, including ₹13.01 crore movable assets.

Ahead of Karnataka elections, garment workers demand better pay and working environment

Pavana J.
BENGALURU

Women in the garment sector allege that successive governments in the State have failed to protect their interests. They say apathy by authorities has forced them to continue to fight to get a decent wage and a better working environment.

In the State, over 4.25 lakh people work in garment factories, out of which 2.75 lakh are employed in various factories in Bengaluru, making them a significant electorate.

In the sector, 85 to 90% of the workforce is women. Workers in the sector demand that the political parties come out with welfare schemes in manifestos and implement the same after coming to power.

A file photo of garment workers walking back to their homes in Bengaluru.

Jayamma, a 47-year-old garment worker from Banashankari, said, "Despite the Minimum Wages Act, we are earning ₹11,000 a month. It is not sufficient to meet our family expenses. When prices of household items and other necessities go up, our salaries have remained the same for years."

She added that travelling alone costs more than ₹1,000 per month in the city. "In our factory, women walk for miles as there are no proper bus services. Whoever comes to power should address the issues faced by people working in the garment sector."

Last year, the State government introduced free bus passes for garment workers, but the scheme failed to pick up due to alleged flaws while introducing the scheme.

The government wanted the management of the factories to meet 40% of the bus cost but the responses were not promising.

Neelamma, a garment worker in her mid-40s, said, "My whole family moved to Bengaluru looking for better job opportunities many years ago. With poor pay, it is becoming too difficult to meet daily expenses. I have two college-going children, and we are not in a position to pay the fees. Whoever comes to power in future should think about people like us."

Prathiba R., president of the Garment and Textile Workers' Union, said that despite a High Court order, the authorities are buying time to revise the wages for garment workers.

"Successive government ignored garment workers by not doing a periodic revision of wages for the garment workers. Succumbing to pressures from the management of the factories, the governments either buy time or skip the revision. We have no option but to approach the court. On other hand, the women working in the sector are facing workplace harassment. Departments concerned and the women's commission should proactively take measures to end workplace harassment."

When asked about whether political parties are keen on addressing the issues faced in their manifestos, she said, "We made several attempts to reach out to political parties and brief them about the issues faced by the garment workers. But we did not get an opportunity to meet the leaders concerned."

Safety issues

On proposals to allow women to work on night shifts, president of the Garment Labour Union, Rukmini said, "What kind of safety can we expect at night when workers are harassed in broad daylight?"

She alleged that some women are not even permitted to leave their machines to get a glass of water while working in the production unit.

"We will only work a night shift when all necessary precautions are taken," she asserted.

Ms. Rukmini urged the new government to prioritise workers' safety and strictly implement laws that protect them.

City topped digital transactions in 2022

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru topped the list of cities in India for highest digital transactions accounting for 29 million transactions worth ₹6,500 crore in 2022, as per data released by Worldline, a French payment and transactional services firm.

New Delhi was second with 19.6 million transactions amounting to ₹5,000 crore, Mumbai followed with 18.7 million transactions amounting to ₹4,950 crore, Pune with 15 million transactions amounting to ₹3,280 crore, and Chennai with 14.3 million transactions amounting to ₹3,550 crore.

Ramesh Narasimhan, CEO, Worldline India, said, "India witnessed an ever-increasing adoption of digital payments in 2022 with payment instruments like UPI, cards and PPIs. The country's total digital transactions in 2022 were ₹149.5 lakh crore."

Bengaluru accounted for 29 million transactions worth ₹6,500 crore in 2022.
GETTY IMAGES

In 2022, frequently visited physical merchant categories like grocery stores, restaurants, clothing and apparel, pharmacy and medical stores, hotels, jewellery retail, speciality retail, household appliances and departmental stores together accounted for over 43% in terms of volume and about 40% in terms value.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, APR. 18	
RISE	06:06 SET 18:32
RISE	04:40 SET 17:00
WEDNESDAY, APR. 19	
RISE	06:05 SET 18:33
RISE	05:22 SET 17:55
THURSDAY, APR. 20	
RISE	06:05 SET 18:33
RISE	06:03 SET 18:49

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	35	25
Mysuru	35	24
Bengaluru	36	20

Bengaluru Today
35°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be very warm and uneasy. Night also will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
36°C A dry weather to continue. Morning will be pleasant with mist & haze. Day will be very warm and uneasy. Night also will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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Number of visitors surges at BBP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the last 15 days, over 85,000 people have visited the Bannerghatta Biological Park. PTI

Summer holidays for schools have seen a surge in tourists visiting Bengaluru's Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP). Each summer when the academic year draws to a close, the number of visitors to the national park spikes to a substantial extent and so does its daily earnings. In the last 15 days, over 85,000 people have visited the park, which has led to a gate collection of ₹2.5 crore.

Starting from April 1 to 14, around 85,065 people have visited the park out of which the vicinity received a footfall of 38,123, and 49,942 took safari rides.

Sunil Panwar, Chief Conservator of Forests and Executive Director, Bannerghatta Biological Park, said, "Compared to last summer the park received 20,000 more visitors this season. In the coming days we are expecting more people to visit the park and the collection will also increase."

According to officials, the visitors are more interested in the safari and also boating. "Children are especially interested in spending their time in the butterfly park and the zoo. Visitors can enjoy a 30-to-45-minute safari," an official said. Last year from April 1 to 14, around 60,389 people had visited the BBP and ₹1.74 crore had been collected as revenue, officials added. At present, the BBP is the closest safari option that Bengalureans and visitors to the city have.

The Bannerghatta National Park was declared a national park in 1974, with a portion of it being made into the BBP in 2002. The BBP has four divisions: the zoo, the safari, the butterfly park, and the rescue centre.

In 2022-23, a total ₹53.89 crore had been collected, while 20,22,997 people had visited the BBP.

Meanwhile, in a week, the park will have a new guest. The authorities are bringing a White Tiger from Chennai as a mate for a White Tigress in the park.

Three held for cheating people

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

CCB officials on Monday arrested a gang of three persons involved in a "rice pulling" device cheating case .

The accused, Venkataramana, 44, Venkatesh, 47, and Somashekhar, 47, used to lure people by using a "rice pulling" device claiming to have radioactive properties and magical powers to attract wealth.

The accused would take money in advance, promising to sell the device, and would then escape.

The accused had cheated many people in the State and accumulated properties, including SUVs, gold valuables, and cash. Several cheating complaints were filed against the accused in various stations.

Text & Context
A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (April 18, Tuesday), the following article is available:

- The various petitions around same sex marriage **bit.ly/samesexmarriagesc**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access this article. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Nodal Officer Transport South and Executive Engineer, Basavanagudi Division, BBMP Building, BSK 3rd stage,C.K.Achukattu Vidyapeeta, Bangalore-560 085

No.NODOFF/T/South/EProc/02/2023-24 Date: 17.04.2023

INVITATION FOR SERVICE TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) (Two Cover System)

The Nodal Officer Transport (South), Basavanagudi Division, invites tenders from eligible tenderers for providing the services detailed in the table below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx Amount put to tender	EMD (in Rs.)
1	For Hiring Vehicle along with Driver on rental basis for Assembly Constituency Election-2023	Rs. 110 Lakhs	1,65,000/-

1) Pre-Bid Meeting: **24.04.2023 at 11.00 a.m. 2)** Last date for submission of tenders: **26.04.2023 upto 4.30 p.m. 4)** Opening of Technical Bid: **28.04.2023 at 4.30 p.m.** Further details can be accessed from GoK e-procurement website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Nodal Officer Transport (South) and Executive Enginer, Basavanagudi Division.

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

ABSTRACT

A clean-up: A crew of volunteers with the California-based non-profit Ocean Voyages Institute fished out derelict nets from the Great Pacific Garbage Patch during a 25-day expedition in 2019. AP

How coastal species are living on plastic debris in the ocean

Plastic trash is abundant in our urban refuse, rivers, and forests, from the slopes of the highest peaks to the depths of abyssal trenches. A new study by researchers from Canada, the Netherlands, and the U.S. has reported that coastal lifeforms have also colonised plastic items in the ocean

Vasudevan Mukunth

Linsey E. Haram, et al. 'Extent and reproduction of coastal species on plastic debris in the North Pacific Subtropical Gyre', Nature Ecology & Evolution, published April 17, 2023. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41559-023-01997-y

"The Anthropocene epoch". This is the name some scientists have proposed for a new period in history characterised by the influence of one species on the planet's geology, ecosystems and even its fate – none other than Homo sapiens. Scientists are still figuring out when this epoch really began; some candidates include the first nuclear weapon test and rapid industrialisation after the Second World War.

Yet another contender is the creation of plastic trash which is abundant in our urban refuse, rivers, and forests, from the slopes of the highest peaks to the depths of abyssal trenches. Ocean life has washed ashore at beaches with stomachs of plastic debris. Plastic has provided ample evidence of its persistence in the natural universe, but of late, scientists have also been uncovering evidence that it is becoming one with nature in troubling new ways.

In a study published on April 17, researchers from Canada, the Netherlands, and the U.S. have reported that coastal lifeforms have colonised plastic items in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch

There are some water currents in the ocean that, driven by winds and the Coriolis force, form loops. These are called gyres. The North Pacific Subtropical Gyre (NPSG) is one such, located just north of the equator in the Pacific Ocean. It consists of the Kuroshio, North Pacific, California, and North Equatorial currents and moves in a clockwise direction. These currents flow adjacent to 51 Pacific Rim countries. Any trash that enters one of these currents, from any of these countries, could become part of the gyre.

Inside this gyre, just north of Hawai'i, lies a long east-west strip where some of the debris in these currents has collected over the years. The eastern part of this is the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. It is, per one estimate, 1.6 million sq. km big and more than 50 years old.

It contains an estimated 45,000-1,29,000 metric tonnes of plastic, predominantly in the form of microplastics. The numerical density of plastics here is around four particles per cubic metre. Mass-wise, however, heavier, more visible objects that haven't yet broken down into smaller particles accounted for 92% of the plastics in 2018.

The study

The tsunami off the Japanese coast in 2011 contributed to the debris in this garbage patch. Until at least 2017, researchers had found debris washing ashore on the West coast of North America containing live lifeforms originally found in Japan. From November 2018 to January 2019, researchers collected 105 pieces of plastic debris from the eastern part of the NPSG, "the most heavily plastic-polluted ocean gyre on the globe," per their paper.

Based on studying them, they reported that 98% of the debris items had invertebrate organisms. They also found that pelagic species (species of the open ocean) were present on 94.3% of them and coastal species on 70.5%. That is, organisms found on coasts were getting by on small floating islands of garbage (to humans) out in the Pacific Ocean.

"The number of coastal species such as arthropods and molluscs identified rafting on plastic was over three-times greater than that of pelagic species that normally live in the open ocean," per a press release accompanying the paper.

In all, they found organisms belonging to 46 taxa. While 37 of them were coastal, the rest were pelagic. Among both coastal and pelagic organisms, crustaceans were the most common. The coastal species were most commonly found on fishing nets whereas the pelagic species on crates.

Where were the organisms from?

According to the paper, "nearly all taxa were of Northwest Pacific origin", including Japan.

Similarly, "most debris items (85.7%) did not have identifiable markings linked to origin, such as manufacture locations or company/brand names." However, eight of the remainder were from East Asia and five specifically from Japan. Four items were from North America.

The researchers also found that 68% of the coastal taxa and 33% of the pelagic taxa reproduced asexually, while there was evidence of sexual reproduction among the hydroids and the crustaceans, among others.

They reported a strong positive correlation between reproduction and mobility.

The relevance of the findings

Speaking to another form of uniquely human influence on the planet, the researchers have written in their paper that "the introduction of a vast sea of relatively permanent anthropogenic rafts since the 1950s" has given rise to a new kind of "standing coastal community ... in the open ocean". They've named it the neopelagic community.

They write in their paper that while coastal species have been found on human-made objects in the open ocean before, they were always considered to have been "misplaced" from their intended habitats. The neopelagic community, on the other hand, is not misplaced but lives on plastic items in the garbage patch, including reproducing there.

The finding recalls a study published on April 3, in which researchers reported that polyethylene films had chemically bonded with rocks in China. This, in turn, is reminiscent, of the "anthropoquinas" of Brazil (sedimentary rocks embedded with plastic earrings) and the "plastiglomerates" of Hawai'i (beach sediment + organic debris + basaltic lava + melted plastic). When did humans begin creating such delectable recipes?

As it happens, the Anthropocene Working Group, of the International Commission on Stratigraphy, will vote this summer on where in the geological record – that is the layers of rock that record everything from evidence of nuclear tests to the burning of fossil fuels – the Anthropocene epoch can be said to have commenced.

No surprises if they agree that it looks like a spike in the concentration of microplastics.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Ms. Nalini Mohan, Lecturer in Zoology, VR College, Nellore, wants to know the pronunciation and use of the word 'folk'."

" 'Folk' rhymes with 'joke' and 'bloke'. The 'l' in 'folk' is silent. 'Folk' means 'people in general'. It is a collective noun used with a plural verb.

Some folk are always optimistic.

The word is used in compounds like folk-lore, folk-dance, folk-song. 'Folks' is used colloquially to refer 'to people of a specified class, one's relatives'.

How are the folks at home?

There are several words derived from 'folk'. 'Folksy' means 'friendly, sociable, informal'.

His writing is marked by a folksy style.

'Folkie' is slang for 'a folk singer' and 'folknik' is slang for 'a devotee of folk songs or folk singers'."

"Mr. M. Sreenivasulu, Gandhi Road, Tirupati, wants to know the difference between 'award' and 'reward'."

"An award is a 'judgment or a final decision'.

The court awarded damages to the plaintiff.

It also means 'something that is conferred on the basis of merit or need'.

She was awarded a merit scholarship.

A reward is 'something that is given in return for good done or received'.

The Government promised a reward for anyone who would disclose the names of the dacoits.

A reward is given in return for something done. An award is given in recognition of some merit in a person."

"Mr. N. Sampath, Sannadhi Street, Ananthakrishnapuram, wants to know the difference between 'doubt' and 'suspicion'."

" When you are in doubt, you are uncertain. 'Doubt' is generally the result of ignorance or lack of evidence. 'Suspicion' is 'partial or unconfirmed belief that something is wrong'; you tend to believe without adequate proof that something is wrong. When you are in doubt, you are uncertain and you seek clarification. When you have a suspicion, you believe that something is wrong. 'Suspicion' is also used in another sense these days. It is used in the sense of 'slight touch or trace'.

The water has a suspicion of chlorine."

"Mr. T. K. Trivedi, Agartala, wants to know the meaning of 'logistics'."

"'Logistics' is related to the word 'lodge'..It means 'the art of moving, lodging and quartering troops'. We don't have to worry about our troop movement. It is being handled by a master of logistics."

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on world-famous monuments on the occasion of the International Day for Monuments celebrated every year on April 18

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
Apart from the Taj Mahal, which other three properties from India were the first three to be given UNESCO World Heritage Status in 1983?

QUESTION 2
Begun in AD 122, and running from Wallsend on the River Tyne in the east to Bowness-on-Solway in northern England, name the structure bearing the name of the ruler who commissioned it.

QUESTION 3
Based on the 'Propylaea', the gateway to the Acropolis in Athens, which construction in an European capital has a quadriga (chariot drawn by four horses) on its top?

QUESTION 4
What is the English name for Rapa Nui that has nearly 1,000 statues called 'moai'? Which South American country has sovereignty over it?

QUESTION 5
What purpose does the Leaning Tower of Pisa serve?

QUESTION 6
Though the ones built for Menkaure and Khafre are nearby, the third in the group is the most famous of these structures. What structure and for whom was it built?

QUESTION 7
In which city can one marvel at the Topkapi Palace and the Sultan Ahmed Mosque?

Visual question:
Name this WHS that was made famous in *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade.* AP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This land-locked country in West Africa has retained its new name since 1984. Before 1984, it was called by this name. **Ans: Burkina Faso; Upper Volta**
2. This country, between 1971 to 1997, was called by this name and ruled by this dictator. **Ans: The Democratic Republic of Congo; Zaire; Mobuto**
3. This country was originally named after a British mining magnate. The current name was first used by African nationalist Michael Mawema. **Ans: Southern Rhodesia/Rhodesia; Zimbabwe.**
4. This country's name was derived from a name proposed by freedom fighter Mburumba Kerina. **Ans: Namibia**
5. This country renamed itself after achieving independence in 1981. **Ans: Belize**
Visual: This country was originally called the "New Hebrides Condominium". **Ans: Vanuatu**
Early Birds: Veeresh Pandey| K. N. Viswanathan| Hinal Padalia| Abhyuday Singh Bhadauria| Jahnavi Taak

Word of the day

Sashay:
move sideways; to walk with a lofty proud gait, often in an attempt to impress others; perform a chasse step, in ballet (used as a verb)

Synonyms: ruffle, strut, swagger, prance, sidle, chasse

Usage: *She sashayed across the room to receive her award.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/sashaypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈsæʃeɪ/, /sæˈʃeɪ/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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1988	Foundation Year Pre-Engg. & Pre-Medical

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सत्य परेशान हो सकता है, पराजित नहीं

A BG-BGE

INBRIEF

Nadda to visit Hubballi as part of damage-control exercise

As part of damage-control exercise after its senior leader Jagadish Shettar quit its fold and joined the Congress, the ruling BJP is getting its national president J.P. Nadda *(in picture)* to visit Hubballi, the constituency of Mr. Shettar, on Tuesday. Mr. Nadda, who is arriving in Hubballi on Tuesday, will participate in a consultation programme with prominent personalities from the town. He is also set to participate in a meeting of the party office-bearers right from the Assembly constituency level to district level in the night. On Wednesday, Mr. Nadda will visit Siddaruda Mutt and Moorusavir Mutt that have significant political influence on local people and offer puja. He will visit Shiggaon to participate in a convention organised to mark the filing of nomination by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

Srikanth Nagamarapalli to contest on JD(S) ticket

JD(S) is expected to release the list of candidates for about 50 remaining seats in the next two days even as BJP leader from Bidar North Srikanth Nagamarapalli joined the party on Sunday night after he was denied ticket by the saffron party. He will contest on JD(S) ticket from Bidar North. Mr. Srikanth is the son of former Home and Forest Minister late Gurupadappa Nagmarapalli. Party sources said that it had decided to not contest from four seats. These include Nanjangud (SC) reserved constituency where Darshan, son of former KPCC working president late R. Dhruvanarayan is contesting. The party is supporting the CPI (M) candidate in Bagepalli, MIM candidate in Vijayapura, and an Independent in Shikaripur.

After 24 years, Shettar does a Shivappa

Jagadish Shettar not getting BJP ticket bears resemblance to an episode of veteran leader Shivappa rebelling against the party after being denied the opportunity to become Leader of the Opposition in 1999; Shettar, who has joined the Congress, alleged that BJP did not treat him with respect

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

Former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar with AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar at the KPCC office in Bengaluru on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Senior leader Jagadish Shettar being denied party ticket to contest the Karnataka Assembly polls and the subsequent rebellion by him has left several BJP leaders and functionaries wondering if history was repeating itself after 24 years.

Mr. Shettar being denied ticket bears resemblance to the earlier episode of party veteran leader B.B. Shivappa rebelling against the party after being denied the opportunity of becoming Leader of the Opposition in 1999.

Many in the party back then believed that Mr. Shivappa, who had strived to build the party in its formative years, would be made Leader of the Opposition in Assembly in 1999 as other prominent leaders, including B.S. Yediyurappa and K.S. Eshwarappa, had lost the Assembly polls then.

But ignoring him, the BJP had chosen Jagadish Shettar, who was then a political greenhorn. This had angered Mr. Shivappa's supporters, who had retaliated by pelting stones at the party office in the newly-inaugurated Bahurao Deshpande Bhavan in Bengaluru where the process of selection of Leader of the Opposition was held.

Following this, the BJP expelled Mr. Shivappa from the party on the charges of indiscipline. The livid leader had joined the Congress.

Mr. Shivappa had publicly asked why he was denied the opportunity of being the Leader of the Opposition though he had seniority and built the party brick by brick in several areas. Interestingly, Mr. Shettar is asking similar questions now. Mr. Shettar, who too joined the Congress, has alleged that the party did not treat a senior leader like him with respect. Incidentally, both belong to the dominant Lingayat community. Mr. Shivappa had then publicly blamed Mr. Yediyurappa and Mr. Ananth Kumar for him missing out on the political opportunity.

Mr. Shivappa later returned to the BJP fold, but carried regret on missing out on being the Leader of the Opposition until his death in 2017.

Meanwhile, BJP insiders claim that the episode of Mr. Shettar quitting its fold will not have a wider impact on the party's political fortunes. They feel that Mr. Shettar's political influence is mostly confined to Hubballi even as the Congress is trying to build a political narrative that Mr. Shettar episode as an indication of Lingayats being insulted by the BJP.

As an immediate measure, the BJP is trying to prevent its office-bearers and prominent party workers from being wooed by Mr. Shettar. Sources, say that the party is keen to utilise Lingayat strongman Mr. Yediyurappa to counter the impact of both Mr. Shettar and former Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi leaving the party.

Shettar has entered bad company, laments CM

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Regretting former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar's decision to quit the BJP and join the Congress, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said Mr. Shettar has joined "bad company".

Answering queries from reporters at Mysuru airport on Monday, Mr. Bommai said Mr. Shettar was a gentleman, who was in "good company." Unfortunately, he has entered "bad company" now, he said, while recalling social reformer Basavanna's words against keeping bad company. He denied that Mr. Shettar had been treated disrespectfully in the BJP. "I don't think so. He was even made the Chief Minister," said Mr. Bommai.

The BJP will not be affected by Mr. Shettar's decision to join the Congress as the party drew its strength from the people and its cadre and not from the leaders, he insisted.

Mr. Bommai said the Congress was luring people from other parties because it did not have candidates for up to 60 seats. The party did not release its entire list of candidates because it did not have candidates in many seats, he said.

With regard to the BJP's electoral prospects in Varuna, Mr. Bommai said the BJP was serious about the contest in Varuna, where Congress leader Siddaramaiah is entering the fray.

Rahul Gandhi tells people to give only 40 seats to 40% govt.

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi being presented a memento during a public meeting at Bhalki in Bidar on Monday. ANI

Alleging widespread corruption in Karnataka under the BJP, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi called upon the people to give only 40 seats to the ruling party that ran a '40% commission government'. Campaigning for the May 10 Assembly elections, he appealed to people to elect the Congress with a minimum of 150 seats, leaving no scope for BJP to purchase MLAs to form the government again.

On corruption

"You have to give 40% commission to get your work done, however big or small it might be. The Contractors' Association wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi about it but Mr. Modi, who speaks volumes against corruption in his speeches, did not even give a single-line reply to the letter. A BJP MLA's son was caught [in the office of Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited] with ₹8 crore, there is a series of scams in the recruitment of Assistant Professors, Assistant Engineers, Junior Engineers and Police Sub-Inspectors, and yet Mr. Modi does not utter a word about it, They [BJP] are taking 40% commission from you, and you should give only 40 seats to them in this election," Mr. Gandhi said.

Mr. Gandhi addressed public meetings in Bhalki and Humnabad on Monday, and the contents of his speech in the two places were almost similar.

Alerting the people of BJP's designs to purchase elected representatives to form a government after the elections, Mr. Gandhi appealed to the people to give Congress full majority with minimum 150 seats, leaving no space for BJP's post-election manoeuvres to capture power through the back door.

Strongly arguing for removal of the 50% reservation cap, he said, "Mr. Modi alleged that I have insulted OBCs. I never insult anybody. I question why Mr. Modi, who talks of the development of OBCs, has hidden the 2011 caste census data. If the data related to caste is released, we will come to know the population size of every community, and formulate better programmes to involve them. I demand removal of the 50% reservation cap. I demand reservation to Dalits and Adivasis proportionate to their population percentage. I am sure Mr. Modi and BJP would never do it. If they can't, let them get aside, and we will do it."

'BJP did not fulfil its promises'

Attacking BJP for its 'false promises' that never materialised, Mr. Gandhi said that Congress would fulfil its four promises - a monthly payment of ₹2,000 to every woman head of the family, 200 units of free electricity to every family every month, 10 kg of rice free of cost under Anna Bhagya scheme, and monthly unemployment compensation of ₹2,000 to graduates and ₹1,500 to diploma holders for two years – on the first day of forming the government.

"BJP promised ₹15 lakh and 2 crore jobs every year. Did you get either? We should not give false promises. Congress makes promises, it fulfils them. We will fulfil these four promises on the first day of assuming office. These promises would benefit the vast majority of poor and weaker sections, and not billionaires like Gautam Adani," he said.

Referring to his disqualification from the Lok Sabha, Mr. Gandhi said, "I was sent out of Lok Sabha as I questioned BJP's corruption, and the relationship between Mr. Modi and Mr. Adani. "I asked two simple questions - what is Mr. Modi's relationship with industrialist Mr. Adani, as the former was giving ports, airports and everything to the latter, and whose money is the ₹20,000 crore invested in Adani shell companies? First, they switched off the mic and then sent me out of Lok Sabha through disqualification. I am not afraid of them. I am not going to stop here. I will continue to fight their corruption," he said.

Swarmed with supporters

KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar taking part in a roadshow before filing his nomination for the Assembly polls from Kanakapura constituency on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bahutva Karnataka releases report card on access to nutrients in State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bahutva Karnataka, a coalition of progressive organisations, on Monday, released a report card on access to nutrients in Karnataka and listed various issues in the food social security schemes, public distribution system, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme, and mid-day meal scheme.

The organisation has been releasing a series of reports on the performance of the incumbent government, ahead of elections on various issues of public concern, "to help people hold the government accountable and make an informed choice."

The report card says: "Even prior to the pandemic, malnutrition in Karnataka was a matter of concern and is expected to have worsened post pandemic. Only 13% of children in the age group of 6-23 months received an adequate diet. About 35% under-5 children were stunted and 33% were underweight. Anaemia in the 6-59 months age group is nearly 66% and 48%% of non-pregnant women between 15-49 years are also anaemic." "Social security schemes - PDS, mid-day meal scheme, and ICDS scheme may address hunger, but are insufficient to address malnutrition or meet the requirements mandated by the NFSA 2013," the report said.

"Since PDS has been reduced to mainly cereal and occasional pulses, this ends up as the only nutritionally inadequate diet of many poorer families. Some anganwadi centres sanctioned under the ICDS scheme do not have adequate budgets and even this is not released on time. There has been no effort by the State to conduct State-level surveys on nutritional indicators, especially post-COVID-19. The budget for social welfare and nutrition dropped from ₹16,403 crore in 2019-20 to ₹13,651 in 2021-22. Many rural schools do not have potable water or toilets. Supply of milk (powder) to government, government-aided schools, and anganwadis in several districts of Karnataka under the Ksheera Bhagya Scheme have been disrupted since January 2023," the report stated.

CNC demand: HC notice to State and Union govts. on Swamy's plea

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday ordered issue of notice to the State and Central governments on a petition seeking direction to set up a commission to consider the demand of the Codava National Council (CNC) for geo-political autonomy and internal political determination rights for Kodava tribe under the Constitution of India.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice M.G.S. Kamal passed the order on the petition filed by former Union Minister Subramanian Swamy, who has said that he is espousing the cause of the CNC, a socio-political and ethno-cultural organisation which is demanding geo-political autonomy for Kodava tribe from the past three decades.

'Under supervision of court'

Stating that such a commission should work under the supervision of the court, Mr. Swamy has said in the petition that the State and the Centre should submit report of such a commission before the court within a reasonable time.

It has been stated in the petition that the significance aspiration of the CNC is to carve out "Kodavaland with geo-political autonomy the Article 244(A) read with 6th and 8th Schedule of the Constitution with right to internal self-determination power; to include miniscule micro Kodava denomination/race in the ST list as per the redifined category; and to protect the racial sacrament gun rights of the Kodavas under Article 25 and 26 of the Constitution."

Autonomous councils

Pointing out that the 6th Schedule of the Constitution allows for the formation of autonomous administrative divisions within their respective States, Mr. Swamy said that most autonomous district councils are located in North East States - 10 autonomous councils in Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura, and two such councils in Ladakh and one in West Bengal.

The commission may recommend and consider forming an autonomous State for Kodava tribe within the State of Karnataka as it can be appended to the 6th Schedule of the Constitution of India to protect the rights of the minority Kodava tribes, Mr. Swamy said in the petition, while pointing out that Kodagu (Coorg) was a separate State once.

He said that the commission can recommend the nature of the autonomous body, whether elected or partially nominated and partially elected, to function as a Legislature for the autonomous State or a council of Ministers, or both with such constitution, powers and functions, in each case, as may be prescribed in the law, etc. for the Kodava tribe.

Ambasamudram torture case: Balveer Singh booked; 11 persons record statements

Initially, the T.N. government had transferred and placed Assistant Superintendent of Police Balveer Singh in 'vacancy reserve' and later suspended him

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUNELVELI

Amid severe criticism from civil rights activists and some allies of the ruling DMK, the Tamil Nadu Police on Monday shed several weeks of reluctance and registered a case against suspended Assistant Superintendent of Police Balveer Singh on charges of torturing suspects in custody in the Ambasamudram Sub-Division last month.

He has been accused of damaging and uprooting the teeth of some suspects during interrogation at a few police stations and also assaulting a couple of men on their private parts. The suspects, who were picked up by the Ambasamudram, Kallidaikurichi and Vickramasingapuram police on "trivial charges", alleged that Mr. Singh, a 2020 batch Indian Police Service officer, had damaged and uprooted their teeth after taking them to these police stations.

Victims of the alleged custodial torture arriving at the taluk office in Ambasamudram for inquiry on Monday. A. SHAIKMOHIDEEN

Initially, the government had placed Mr. Singh in "vacancy reserve" and later placed him under suspension. The government had also ordered for an inquiry by Cheranmahadevi Sub-Collector Mohammed Shabbir Alam. Subsequently, three Inspectors of Police, two Sub-Inspectors and two special branch constables were also put in "vacancy reserve".

Later, the government chose to appoint IAS officer P. Amudha, Principal Secretary, Department of Rural Development, to probe the allegations.

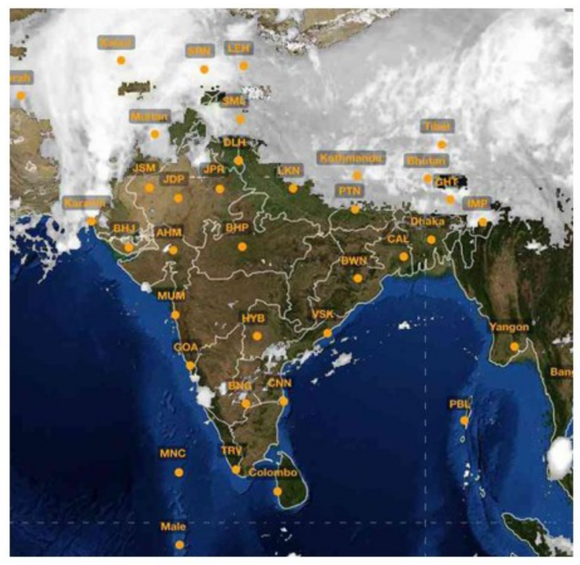
She sat for an inquiry on April 10 but no one turned up to record their statements. When she commenced her two-day inquiry on Monday at Ambasamudram taluk office, 11 persons, including eight victims and three family members, recorded their statements.

Tirunelveli Superintendent of Police N. Silambarasan could not be reached for his comments. His 'gunman', who attended the phone calls from this correspondent, said he was in a meeting with the Deputy Inspector General of Police through videoconference.

The Tirunelveli District Crime Branch has registered the case under Sections 506 (1) (Criminal intimidation), 324 (voluntarily hurting by using dangerous weapon) and 326 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt by using dangerous weapon).

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 19.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy rainfall/snowfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Muzaffrabad and Himachal Pradesh. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty wind likely at isolated places over Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Rajasthan, Odisha, central Maharashtra, Marathwada and Konkan & Goa

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	38.0	27.8	Kozhikode	—	37.4	28.2
Ahmedabad	—	41.9	26.0	Kurnool	—	42.6	27.4
Aizawl	—	37.5	18.4	Lucknow	—	41.5	23.5
Allahabad	—	44.6	24.2	Madurai	—	39.0	24.6
Bengaluru	—	35.4	20.8	Mangaluru	—	35.0	27.2
Bhopal	—	40.0	24.6	Mumbai	—	33.8	25.4
Bhubaneswar	—	39.9	26.5	Mysuru	—	36.0	20.2
Chandigarh	—	40.9	23.3	New Delhi	—	40.6	21.9
Chennai	—	38.7	25.6	Patna	—	43.2	24.8
Coimbatore	—	38.5	24.8	Port Blair	—	34.6	26.4
Dehradun	—	37.2	19.4	Puducherry	—	36.0	26.2
Gangtok	8	25.1	15.5	Pune	1	38.4	22.0
Goa	—	34.0	26.2	Raipur	—	42.6	26.4
Guwahati	—	37.2	22.0	Ranchi	—	38.7	24.5
Hubballi	—	40.0	22.0	Shillong	—	28.9	18.6
Hyderabad	—	38.7	24.2	Shimla	—	25.9	15.4
Imphal	—	35.0	17.7	Srinagar	4	21.4	10.9
Jaipur	—	39.0	26.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	35.0	26.6
Kochi	—	33.2	27.8	Tiruchi	—	39.7	25.4
Kohima	—	28.8	15.6	Vijayawada	—	40.4	26.6
Kolkata	—	41.6	29.4	Visakhapatnam	—	34.0	28.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	4	1	3	132	208	
Bengaluru	3	—	21	93	130	
Chennai	3	91	77	130	100	
Delhi	36	126	50	212	294	
Hyderabad	7	29	39	134	134	
Kolkata	13	—	30	116	155	
Lucknow	8	77	34	297	186	
Mumbai	13	45	83	204	153	
Pune	18	30	42	260	169	
Visakhapatnam	14	47	42	140	153	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 370 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Karauli, Rajasthan recorded a healthy AQI score of 38

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

SC allows Maudany to visit native Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday relaxed the bail condition of Abdul Nasir Maudany, People's Democratic Party chairman and prime accused in the 2008 Bengaluru serial bomb blasts case, and allowed him to visit his native Kerala.

A Bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and Bela Trivedi said Maudany, represented by senior advocate Kapil Sibal and advocate Haris Beeran, would bear the expense of his police escort. The court listed the case again on July 10.

The petition filed by Maudany said the apex court had granted him bail in July 2014 till the disposal of the case by the Karnataka trial court. However, the court had imposed the condition that he would not leave Bengaluru.

Maudany urged the court to allow him to travel to his home town in Kerala during the pendency. He said that about eight years had elapsed since July 2014 and the Karnataka government had not been able to fulfil its assurance at the time that the trial would be completed in four months.

Kerala train arson suspect highly radicalised: police

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

According to the police, there is strong evidence against the accused to prove his radical background

The prime suspect in the Kozhikode train arson case, Shahrukh Saifi, is a deeply radicalised youth enthralled by the provocative video teachings of Islamic televangelist Zakir Naik and Islamic preacher Israr Ahmad, M.R. Ajithkumar, Additional Director-General of Police, who heads Kerala's special police team investigating the case, said on Monday.

Mr. Ajithkumar revealed that Saifi was the mastermind behind the premeditated assault on the Alappuzha-Kannur Executive Express at Elathur, near Kozhikode, on April 2.

Explaining the circumstances that led to invoking the Unlawful Activities (prevention) Act against Saifi, he said there was a set of strong scientific, documentary and oral evidence against the accused to prove his radical background and activities that prompted the attack.

The man came to Kerala for the first time with a clear preparation and a comprehensive investigation would be required to unveil whether he had got any external support here, Mr. Ajithkumar said.

Declining to reveal anything related to the suspicious links of the accused with extremist movements and other suspected accomplices, he said such factors could be confirmed only after the next phase of comprehensive probe.

Case of attack on CM posted for April 20

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The NIA court here posted the 'Kodi Kathi' case for further hearing to April 20. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy is supposed to give his statement as the victim in the case.

He had filed a plea for a deeper probe into the attack on him and a separate request to be exempted from personally recording his evidence. Counsel for the petitioner Abdul Saleem accused Mr. Jagan of causing delay on one pretext or the other.

Milma all set for revamping brand to take on cooperative majors

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (Milma) is undergoing a brand revamp to remain competitive against international brands and Indian cooperative majors that are making forays into its market.

As a first step, milk, curd, 'set curd', flavoured milk, and ghee brought out by Milma and its three regional unions would undergo standardisation in critical areas like production, quality, weight, and branding, Milma chairman K.S. Mani said on Monday.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will formally launch the revamp in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday.

"Over 42 years, Milma has emerged as a popular brand with a large customer base. But we also need to be prepared to face new challenges," Mr. Mani said.

Milma's announcement, incidentally, came at a time when a controversy erupted in Karnataka over Amul's foray into the local market. Milma itself was locked in a tussle with the Karnataka Milk Federation over the latter opening outlets in Kerala to sell its 'Nandini' milk brand. Mr. Mani said product prices or the familiar Milma logo would not undergo any changes on account of the brand rebuilding exercise.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Additional District Election Officer-Central, Annexe-1, Building, BBMP, NR Square, Bengaluru-560 002.

No.ELN/Central/PR/75/2023-24 Date: 15.04.2023

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Office of Additional District Election Officer (Central) BBMP, invites tenders from eligible tenderers for providing the services detailed in the table below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx Amount put to tender	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Supply of Providing Checkpost for SST Team at Different Places under Jurisdiction of ADEO BBMP (Central) for 2023 Karnataka Assembly Election.	Rs. 50 Lakhs	1,25,000/-

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from GoK e-procurement portal from **16.04.2023 onwards. 2)** Pre-Bid Meeting: **17.04.2023 at 3.00 p.m. 3)** Last date for submission of tenders: **23.04.2023 upto 4.00 p.m. 4)** Opening of Technical Bid: **24.04.2023 at 5.00 p.m. 5)** Opening of Financial Bid: **25.04.2023 at 12.00 p.m.** Further details can be accessed from GoK e-procurement website: **https://eproc.karnataka. gov.in** or contact the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Assistant Commissioner (Election-Central), BBMP

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT HASSAN
Crl. Mis. No. 624/2020
Complainant: Deepa .S
- V/s -
Respondents: 1) Narendra Kumar, Aged 40 years, S/o Late Shankar Rao. **2) Vaidehi Shankar,** 63 years, W/o Late Shankar Rao, **3) Amith Kumar,** 35 years, S/o Late Shankar Rao **4) Akhila Bedre,** 32 years, W/o Amith Kumar.
Address of Respondent No. 1 to 4, Flat B-5, Jupiter Block, Regency Magnum, Hennur, Baglur Main Road, Bangaluru-560043.

COURT NOTICE TO RESPONDENTS No.1 to 4

Take notice that the Petitioners have filed the above complaint u/s 12 of the Domestic Violence Act against all of you seeking relief in respect of cruelty meted out to them in a matrimonial dispute. And the above proceedings is posted on **23/5/2023 at 11 am** in the above court. And you are directed to appear in the above case on the said date in person or through duly authorized agent. Failing which, the proceedings will be conducted in your absence as per law.
Issued as per the order of court dated: 13/4/2023.

Sd/- Sheristedar
Court of Prl. Civil Judge and JMEC, Hassan
Advocate of petitioner
Banu Mushtaq
Date: 13/4/2023 Place: Hassan

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my Clients **Sri. BHAGAWAN ALLELAPPA**, Son of Sri.Muniyellappa, Nos.12 and 13, 'Yellamma Muniyellappa Nilaya', Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Attibele - 562 107, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District and **Sri.S.SATEESHA**, Son of Sri.Shamayya Reddy, No.1628, Attibele Circle, Attibele - 562 107, Anekal Taluk, being the owners of the property described in the Schedule herein by a Power of Attorney dated 05/12/2014 registered as Document 749/2014-15 in Book-IV in the Office of the Sub - Registrar, Shivajinagar Bangalore, appointed and empowered **M/s.MAX CONCORDE DEVELOPERS**, No.2231, 3rd Floor, 11th Main, 3rd Block East, Jayanagar, BANGALORE - 560 041 by its Managing Partners: **Sri.C.VENKATESHA & Sri.H.B.JAYARAMA** with the limited powers to deal with the Schedule Property. My clients reliably learnt that their attorney holders are acting detrimental to the interest of my clients and are attempting to alienate the Schedule Property based on the Power of Attorney dated 05/12/2014 though the same was not provided with powers to alienate / sell the schedule property. My clients by a Legal Notice dated 13/04/2023 have revoked/cancelled the General Power of Attorney dated 05/12/2014 with immediate effect and the same is duly cancelled on 17/04/2023 vide Document No.21/2023-24 in Book-IV CD No BDH-4 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bidarahalli, Bangalore. Any person/s dealing with **M/s.MAX CONCORDE DEVELOPERS** and its partners in respect of the Schedule Property will not derive any right, title or interest in the Schedule Property and any transaction/s entered into with **M/s.MAX CONCORDE DEVELOPERS**., will not be legal, valid and will not bind on my Clients and such person/s will not derive any right, title to or interest in the Schedule Property and all such transactions will be void-ab-initio.

SCHEDULE

All that Property in the form of a Vacant Land bearing CTS No.85 & 86 PID No.81-86-11 in Sy.Nos.102 & 103, Patta No.34 Property bearing Mnicipal No.1, Muniswamappa Garden (Dhobi Ghat) Halasuru, Bangalore 560 008 measuring 79619 Sq Ft., and bounded on the
East by : Private Property,
West by : Public Road,
North by : Old Madras Road
South by : Garden Muniswamappa Road
BANGALORE, Dt :17/04/2023

Sri. K. P. RUPESH KUMAR
Advocate, "LAW CORP",
No.98/2-27, Mohan Towers,
Residency Road, Bangalore - 560 001.
Tel : 22230016. Mob: 9886761765.

HDFC
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION LTD. CIN L70100MH1977PLC019916
Regd. Office: Ramon House, H T Parekh Marg, 169, Backbay Reclamation, Churchgate, Mumbai- 400020
Regional Office : HDFC House, No.51, Kasturaba Road, Bangalore - 560001. **Ph :** 080 41183000
Fax: 080 22275754, **E-mail : customer.service@hdfc.com**, **Website:** www.hdfc.com

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (HDFC Limited)** under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notice under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amounts mentioned in the Demand Notice, within 60 days from the date of the said Notice, as per details given below. The undersigned have, caused/are getting the said Notice to be pasted on the premises of the last known respective addresses of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s). Copies of the said Notice are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.
In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) to pay to HDFC Limited, within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the amount indicated hereinbelow in their name(s), together with further interest @ 18% p.a. as detailed in the said Demand Notice from the date mentioned below in column (c) till the date of payment and / or realisation, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset has been mortgaged to HDFC Limited by the said Borrower (s) respectively.
Attention of the Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative (s)	Total Outstanding Dues	Date of Demand Notice	(Description of Secured Asset in respect of which Security Interest has been created)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(f)
1	**1. Mr. K R Ravishankar (Borrower), 2. Mrs. Anitha R (Co-Borrower-1) 3. Mr. Gowda Amit Ravishankar (Co-Borrower-2), 4. Mr. Gowda Adit R (Co-Borrower-3) Sreenivasa Enterprises (Co-Borrower-4) Aria Brew & Dine Pvt Ltd., (Co-Borrower-5) Bodysculpt Healthclub Pvt Ltd., (Co-Borrower-6)** Site 824, 24th Main Sarakki Extension, JP Nagar 2nd Phase, Opp Bata Show Room, Bengaluru 560078 **And Also At:** S.No.46, Doddajala Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore 562157. **1. Mr. K R Ravishankar (Borrower), 2. Mrs. Anitha R (Co-Borrower-1) 3. Mr. Gowda Amit Ravishankar (Co-Borrower-2), 4. Sreenivasa Enterprises (Co-Borrower-4) Partnership Firm, Represented by its Managing Partner, Mr. K R Ravishankar,** Urvashi Digital Cinema, **Mrs. Anitha R, Partner, Sreenivasa Enterprises**, Urvashi Digital Cinema. **Mr. Gowda Amit Ravishankar Partner, Sreenivasa Enterprises,** Urvashi Digital Cinema, No.40, Lalbagh Road, Lalbagh, Shanthinagar, Bangalore 560027. **1. Aria Brew & Dine Pvt Ltd Represented by its Director, Mr. K R Ravishankar (Borrower) Mr. Gowda Amit Ravishankar (Co-Borrower-2) Aria Brew & Dine Pvt Ltd Designation: Director, Mr. Gowda Adit R (Co-Borrower-3) Bodysculpt Healthclub Pvt Ltd., (Co-Borrower-6) Represented by its Director, Mr. K R Ravishankar, Bodysculpt Healthclub Pvt Ltd., (Co-Borrower-6) Mrs. Anitha R** 40/1, Century Corbel,Sahakar Nagar Main Road, Kodihalli, Sahakaranagar P.O. Bengaluru 560092	**Loan Account No. (1) 616496072 Rs.15,75,96,138/-** **(2) 635068490 Rs.11,49,77,340/-** **Total Amount Rs.27,25,73,478/-** (Rupees Twenty Seven Crore Twenty Five Lakhs Seventy Three Thousand Four Hundred and Seventy Eight Only) **as on 31.03.2023**	10.04.2023 N.P.A. Date: (e) 05.04.2023	**Item No. 1 - JP Nagar :** **Schedule Property:** All that piece and parcel of the Residential Site bearing No. 824, situated at 24th Main, Sarakki Extension, JP Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore City Corporation Division No.60/B, Bangalore, measuring total land area of 9340 sq.ft., along with the construction of the residential building consisting of Ground & First Floor with First floor (AC sheet) approx. area of 7980 sq.ft. and bounded on the : East by: Site Nos.816 and 817, West by : 24th Main Road, North by : Site No.825, South by : Site No.823 **Item No. 2 - Doddajala Village :** **Schedule Property:** All that piece and parcel of the immovable industrially converted land vide order No. B/Dis/ALN/ SR(NA)269/1996-97 dated 10.01.1997 by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Urban District, Bangalore admeasuring 1 acres 10 guntas in survey No.46 of Doddajala Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk-562157, Karnataka along with industrial shed to an extent of 947 sq. meters with cement flooring without any machineries and bounded on ; East by : Property belongs to Smt. Uma, West by : Property belongs to Hanumappa, North by : Sheetigere Village Road, South by : Properties belongs to Subbaiah.

*with further interest @ 18% p.a. as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and / or realization. If the said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) fail to make payment to HDFC Limited as aforesaid, then HDFC Limited shall proceed against the above Secured Asset / Immovable Property under Section 13 (4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences.
The said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset / Immovable Property, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of HDFC Limited. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date: 18.04.2023
Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorized Officer
HDFC Ltd., Under SARFAESI ACT, 2002

DEFENCE INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY
(Deemed to be University Under Section 3 of UGC Act, 1956)
Girinagar, Pune - 411 025 | Tel. No. 020-2460 4411
E-mail:- jr@diat.ac.in

ADMISSION NOTICE: POST GRADUATE PROGRAMMES – 2023

Defence Institute of Advanced Technology is an autonomous organization, fully funded by the Department of Defence Research & Development, Ministry of Defence established with the objective of imparting Post Graduate Education in Engineering and Applied Sciences on thrust area relevant to Defence, Industries, R&D and to conduct research in the Core areas of Defence Technologies.

DIAT invites applications for the M.Tech Programmes under self-financed category in Engineering and Applied Sciences Departments. Details of Branches/Programmes, application forms and other terms and conditions are available at website **www.diat.ac.in**

Aspiring candidates may send the application on or before **17/05/2023** through email to **mtech_admissions@diat.ac.in** in the prescribed format available on DIAT website.

DIAT M.Tech Admissions under Scholarship category will be carried out through CCMT, 2023 portal when it will be activated.

Promoting impunity

Denial of nod to prosecute Army men in Oting massacre is disconcerting

In denying sanction to the Nagaland police to prosecute 30 Army men for the December 2021 killing of 13 civilians in a botched-up operation, the Union government has sent out a disconcerting message that it is unable or unwilling to do anything about impunity in insurgency-hit States. In what was later described as a case of mistaken identity, six workers returning home in a vehicle from a coal mine bordering Assam were gunned down by the security forces at Oting village in Mon district. Seven more villagers were shot dead later, following a scuffle with villagers who had found the bodies in an Army vehicle. Prior sanction to prosecute Army personnel is necessary under Section 6 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA). A Special Investigation Team of the Nagaland Police completed its probe in March 2022, and filed a charge sheet in the case. It had sought sanction for prosecution from the Defence Ministry's Department of Military Affairs. The police had claimed they had established the involvement of 30 personnel, who allegedly violated standard operating procedures and rules of engagement, and resorted to indiscriminate and disproportionate firing on the vehicle. Meanwhile, the Army also ordered a court of inquiry, but its outcome is not known. On petitions by the wives of the Army personnel involved, the Supreme Court of India stayed the criminal proceedings in July 2022.

The Centre has been quite keen on reducing the areas covered by the law giving special powers in disturbed areas to the armed forces. In recognition of the significant improvement in the security situation in the northeastern region, it has reduced the notified areas in Nagaland, Assam and Manipur in recent years. On the political side, it has been working towards peace accords and getting insurgents and extremists to lay down arms. However, it is quite incongruent with its overall policy of creating an atmosphere conducive for peace and development, and making partners out of those laying down weapons, for the government to disallow the prosecution of those suspected to be involved in an admittedly mistaken counter-insurgency operation. It would have redounded to the government's credit had it allowed the criminal courts to decide on the extent of culpability of the Army men. Prosecution of armed forces personnel involved in excesses is quite rare, leading to the widespread impression that AFSPA is used to promote impunity. The government must demonstrate its commitment to peace in the region and justice for the victims by either granting sanction for their prosecution, or taking exemplary action based on the findings of the military court of inquiry.

Sudan's tragedy

The feuding generals should agree on a time-bound transition to democracy

For 30 years, Omar al-Bashir, a former military officer, ruled Sudan with an iron hand and indiscriminate violence. When he was toppled in April 2019 in a mass uprising, many hoped that the resource-rich country in the Horn of Africa would finally get a chance to move towards a freer society with a representative and responsive administration. But the tragedy of Sudan is that the monstrous regime that Mr. Bashir built outlasted his reign. Within two years of his fall, the military was back, and now, a power struggle between the top two generals has pushed Sudan to the brink of a civil war. Dozens of civilians have already been killed in fighting that broke out on Saturday in Khartoum and other parts of the country between the military and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), a notorious paramilitary group. Despite international calls for truce, Lt.Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, the military chief as well as the head of the Sovereignty Council, the transitional administration, and his deputy, Lt.Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, who commands the RSF, have refused to negotiate, blaming each other for the attacks. Mr. Dagalo, who has close ties with Russia's Wagner private military company and Saudi Arabia, claims that the RSF has taken control of the presidential palace and has vowed to bring Gen. Burhan to justice, while the military has dismissed such claims and launched air strikes against RSF sites.

Just two years ago, the two generals stood hand in hand when they ousted a civilian transition government and took over the reins of the country. Faced with international isolation and domestic pressure, they agreed to transfer power back to the civilians. But differences emerged on who should control the post-transition military. Gen. Burhan supports the integration of the RSF into the regular military and transition to civilian government to take place in two years, while Gen. Dagalo, who fears that he would lose his clout, wants to delay it by 10 years. Discord grew into mistrust and mistrust led to fighting. And the fighting could drag the country, which has a history of internal strife, into an all-out civil war. Sudan's generals are known for their scant regard for the welfare of their people. The country is struggling with an economic crisis, with rocketing inflation and a burning hunger problem. The last thing Sudan wants now is a civil war. If the priority of the generals is to address Sudan's basic problems, they should pay attention to the call for a truce and dialogue, and commit themselves to a timeline-sensitive democratic transition. Decades of military rule in Sudan have resulted in a lot of atrocities. Generals Burhan and Dagalo should not tread the same course.

Chinese shenanigans on Arunachal Pradesh

Sujan R. Chinoy

is a former Ambassador. He is the Director General of the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses

For the third time in recent years, China's Ministry of Civil Affairs, on April 2, made a provocative move by releasing new names for 11 places in Arunachal Pradesh under the fig leaf of standardising geographical names in "Zangnan" (a phoney term invented by Beijing to claim that Arunachal Pradesh is "South Tibet"). According to media reports, these names include "two residential areas, five mountain peaks, two rivers, and two other areas". In 2017, China had 'renamed' six places that lie in Arunachal Pradesh. It had also 'standardised' the names of 15 places in 2021, which had similarly included population centres, mountains, rivers, and a mountain pass.

Taken together, and on the face of it, some of the places are located along the Pangchen-Tawang-Jang-Sela axis running down from the Line of Actual Control; others are near old Buddhist pilgrimage circuits near Taksing in Upper Subansiri district, Menchuka-Tato *tehsil* in West Siang, and still others towards the Lohit and Anjaw districts, near Walong.

Whether it is in the Himalayas or the East and South China Seas, China's depredations and unfounded irredentist claims are legion. In 2020, China gave names to 80 geographical features in the Paracels and Spratlys in the South China Sea, where China is embroiled in maritime disputes with several states. In 1983, it had named 287 geographical features in the South China Sea. It began using the term "Diaoyutai" for the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea in the 1950s, even before raking up the Senkaku issue with Japan. Often, the Chinese *modus operandi* is to lay the groundwork through fictional renaming of alien territories as a basis for sham "historical" claims which are then pursued using the "three warfares" strategy – of waging propaganda, psychological and legal warfare. China also struck a jarring note in the wake of the apocryphal exercise concerning place names in Arunachal Pradesh by naming several under-sea features in the Indian Ocean, ironically using the names of Chinese musical instruments.

China issued the Geographical Name Regulation in 1986 designed to regulate naming, renaming, and so-called standardisation exercises. It introduced an amended rule that came into force on May 1, 2022. While these pieces of legislation have mainly dealt with naming, renaming, and standardising names within China, they also cover several alien territories claimed by China.

> The State represents the finest of India's cultural and civilisational heritage, and there is absolutely no basis to the Chinese claim over any part of Arunachal Pradesh

It is instructive to recall two related developments. China enacted a new Coast Guard Law that came into effect on February 1, 2021, to take necessary measures, including the use of force, to safeguard "sovereignty". China also passed a new law on the protection and exploitation of the country's land border areas that came into effect on January 1, 2022. This unilateral step has the effect of converting the boundary dispute with India into a sovereignty issue. In the run-up, from 2017 onwards, China launched the construction of dual-purpose villages, the so-called Xiaokang villages, in areas adjacent to the border with India, from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh. One can discern a new and aggressive thrust by China to emphasise its territorial claims, whether land or maritime.

The Government of India has consistently dismissed such shenanigans on China's part. After the latest move by China on Arunachal Pradesh, the Ministry of External Affairs said that "this is not the first time that China has made such an attempt. We reject this outright. Arunachal Pradesh is an integral, inalienable part of India. Attempts to assign invented names will not alter this reality".

China's bogus claim, Indian history

China's claim on Arunachal Pradesh is as bogus as can be. A reading of *Tibet And Its History* by Hugh Edward Richardson clearly suggests that the Qing presence in Tibet began to emerge around 1720, after Chinese intervention in the internecine succession struggle following the death of the Sixth Dalai Lama (1683-1706).

Therefore, there is absolutely no basis to the Chinese claim over Tawang, or for that matter any other part of Arunachal Pradesh, on the flimsy grounds that it is the birthplace of the Sixth Dalai Lama. China, in any case, had no *locus standi* in Tibet at the time. But that has not prevented China from concocting so-called historical claims with retrospective effect. A study of the 1960 reports of the officials of the two sides on the boundary question reveals the vague, patchy and superficial nature of "evidence" proffered by the Chinese side in support of Beijing's boundary claims.

Arunachal Pradesh, formerly known as the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA), is home to various tribes that have historically been a part of India's civilisational heritage. Most of its populace has been historically oriented towards the Assam plains. The tribes there were in regular contact with the Ahom power in Assam, including for the grant of rights to levy the Posha from the plains people in the adjacent areas.

While some tribes, such as the Monpas, have professed Buddhism, others follow animistic practices. Some tribes practise a form of Vaishnavism. The *Mahabharata*, the *Ramayana*, the *Kalika Purana*, the *Vishnu Purana*, the *Yogini Purana*, and Kalidasa's *Raghuvamsa* have references that give a clear indication of the inclusion of these tribal tracts in the collective consciousness and cultural moorings of ancient India.

These sources have indications about the boundaries of the kingdoms of Pragjyotisha and Kamarupa, whose limits appeared to include the whole of Arunachal Pradesh. The Shiva Linga in Ziro, Parshuram Kund, and the temple ruins of Malinithan, which are connected to the legends of Parashuram, Rukmini, Bhismaka and Sishupala, show an ancient Hindu influence in the region. Some Mishmis consider themselves to be the descendants of King Bhishmaka, and some Akas claim their descent from King Bhaluka. Archaeological finds have unearthed silver coins and inscriptions in the Arabic script at Bhalukpong, linked to a Muslim ruler of Bengal. The architecture of many forts, such as those at Bhalukpong, Ita and Bhismaknagar (built between the 10th and 16th centuries), is heavily influenced by the architectural principles of fort construction found in the *Ramayana*, the *Mahabharata*, and *Arthashastra*. These forts were frontier posts of the security system that was prevalent in the Brahmaputra Valley.

There is no other comparable influence of any other culture or history on Arunachal Pradesh as a whole. Today, the State represents the finest of India's cultural and civilisational heritage.

Now is the time perhaps for India to not only reject Beijing's charade of giving Chinese names to places in Arunachal Pradesh but also to assign Indian names to places and territories under the illegal occupation of China. Aksai Chin, for example, may be called *Akshaya Chinha* – which means an "everlasting symbol" (of India). It is an indelible part of the Indian consciousness. As for Arunachal Pradesh, it is and will remain an integral part of India.

The views expressed are personal

A culture of cohesion to save young lives on campuses

Ayalur K. Bakthavatsalam

is HAG Professor at the National Institute of Technology, Trichy

Furqan Qamar

a professor at the Faculty of Management Studies in Jamia Millia Islamia, is a former Adviser for Education at the Planning Commission of India

To read newspaper reports about young students ending their lives is disturbing. During the 2018-23 quinquennial, there were as many as 61 students fading away: in the Indian Institutes of Technology, or IITs (33), the National Institutes of Technology, or NITs (24) and the Indian Institutes of Management (4). In the 2014-21 septennial, there were 122 cases in various higher education institutions. In both cohorts, most students were from the Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Castes (OBC) and Economically Weaker Sections (EWS). Marginalisation and deprivation are factors but one also finds a wide spectrum of students.

Campuses are now impersonal spaces

The fact is that campuses have become large and impersonal spaces. Family support is dwindling as there are more nuclear families now with working parents who are unable to provide the kind of parenting and mentoring that joint families provide. Individualism is all pervasive in society. Consequently, early signs of emotional distress go unnoticed, unrecognised, and unaddressed. Generally, institutions are in denial mode and prefer to hush things up. They expect the situation to be dealt with by the parents. Students in emotional distress have at times been advised to spend time with their families.

In institutions of higher education the system is such that there is hardly any free and fair communication between students, their seniors, teachers, and the administration. A 'home away from home' kind of an experience eludes students. Classroom interactions are confined to academics, with recurrent exhortations to students to be committed, dedicated and hard working, adding to the stress emotionally distressed students are already under. Teachers may hardly have the time, the inclination or even the expertise to notice and address any disturbing traits among their students. In any case, a highly formalised, standardised and hierarchical structure can never be conducive to promoting congeniality, or even empathy.

Consequently, students are deprived of much-needed preventive measures. It is only when tragedy occurs that actions are triggered – an inquiry and then a prescription of remedial and preventive measures. That is it.

> Counselling and therapies are crucial measures, but what institutions of learning need to do is to ensure respect for academic and socio-economic diversity on their campuses

Most campus suicides are attributed to academic pressure, family circumstances, personal reasons, different kinds of stress, financial distress, caste-based discrimination, and many different forms of harassment. Many of the sources of distress lie outside the purview of higher education institutions and have their genesis in the larger economic and societal contexts. Therefore, each of these reasons must need to be addressed at their source by the government, society, institutions, parents, and families.

There are formal mechanisms in place to provide personal, cultural and psychological counselling to students. Most of the IITs, NITs and the like have put in place (or beginning to) online and offline mechanisms to access personal counselling and therapies in a confidential manner. Apps such as Dost, Saathi, and Mitr have also been launched to access their services anonymously. Most of these institutions also organise awareness and sensitisation programmes for students.

Yet, such centres appear to be deficient on many counts. The onus is on students 'in need' to seek help – it is they who must seek an appointment. Another drawback is that they work most of the time during office hours, and on working days, and are often unable to respond in a prompt manner. One of the IITs claims, and rightly so, that 'it tries to help students as soon as possible and as much as possible'. A few of them have arrangements with external agencies to provide psychological counselling. The fact is that institutions of national importance are in a much better situation than most central and State universities (the little information that is available suggests that they usually assign the task of counselling to faculty members and are yet to embrace the idea of professionally trained counsellors).

A study in contrasts

In comparison, universities in the United States have dedicated counselling centres with a range of psychological services such as evaluation, counselling, consultation, and therapies – individual and group. They are accredited by the International Accreditation of Counseling Services (IACS) and are manned by licensed psychologists, psychiatrists, clinical therapists, mental health workers and social workers. The counsellor-to-student ratio is carefully established through a combination of empirical analysis and judgments of experienced counselling directors.

In contrast, the psychological counselling services in Indian campuses are limited to providing some physical space in a corner of the institution, with a limited number of professionally trained psychologists and psychotherapists. There are hardly any standards. One wishes that the approval and accreditation process of institutions also gives equal importance to this aspect of student life as done for floor area, faculty, books, and even computers. There needs to be a well-oiled life support system for many students.

Counselling and therapies as curative measures may be easy to strengthen and streamline. What is critical but most difficult is to create conditions for forming an assimilative culture of cohesion and promoting respect for academic and socio-economic diversity. Institutions must deter and curb all forms of discrimination, howsoever subtle and done even in jest.

At times, the inability to cope with academic pressure and get good grades is linked to the category and ranks of students. A few fringe elements on campus might be prejudicial about reservations in admission and differential fee policies.

Cannot institutions be discreet about such sensitive information? Could they not evolve a code of campus ethics prescribing standards and protocols of what can and cannot be discussed even in informal social settings? Social, economic, and cultural diversity on campuses add value – but only if they are sensitively nurtured and carefully harnessed.

The views expressed are personal. Those in distress could seek professional help and counselling

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Prayagraj shooting

The double murders in Prayagraj have created two lines — condemnation by various Opposition parties while the public at large seems less enthusiastic to express abhorrence. While the rule of law is irreplaceable in a functioning democracy, it must also be remembered that 'justice must not only be done but must also be seen to be done'. If a criminal with around 100 cases has managed to thrive and go relatively scot-free for decades, it is an equally and more embarrassing failure of the rule of law. It is this failure of the law to bring offenders to justice that fuels misplaced public euphoria over extrajudicial killings (Page 1, April 17).

Michael Jom,
Thiruvananthapuram

The brazen incident underpins the state of policing. The case is an embarrassment as far as the authorities are concerned and raises issues about police security.

Ruthvik Goud Kasulabad,
Korukonda, Andhra Pradesh

Pentagon leaks 2023

The Pentagon leaks are a grim reminder to other nations about ensuring the confidentiality and safekeeping of top secret files. It is surprising that even after WikiLeaks, no lessons seem to have been learnt.

Balasubramaniam Pavani,
Secunderabad

Milk politics

There is no doubt that Amul pioneered the concept of cooperative dairy farming due to the vision of Verghese Kurien. On the other hand, Nandini is a successful brand in Karnataka. Amul may be the 'taste of India' but Nandini is the pride of Karnataka. In this one would like to bring in the example of Karnataka's banking sector, which resulted in some of the best performing banks. With mergers and consolidations, their identities have been lost. One hopes that Nandini and Amul continue on their distinct paths.

H.N. Ramakrishna,
Bengaluru

It would be unfortunate to have cooperative politics result in a famous dairy cooperative becoming a political weapon — it will cause irreplaceable damage to the legacy of Verghese Kurien and Operation Flood.

Jyotsna D. Vengitti,
Shimoga, Karnataka

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Dealing with extreme heat

Feroze Varun Gandhi

is a Member of Parliament, representing the Sultanpur constituency for the BJP

Around 350 million Indians were exposed to strong heat stress between April and May 2022. Between 1990 and 2019, summer temperatures on average rose by 0.5-0.9°C across districts in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan; about 54% of India's districts have also seen a similar rise in winter temperatures. Between 2021 and 2050, it is expected that the maximum temperature will rise by 2-3.5°C in 100 districts and by 1.5-2°C in around 455 districts. Similarly, winter temperatures will rise between 1°C and 1.5°C in around 485 districts. Such a sharp rise in urban temperatures is rare. However, with climate change exacerbating local weather patterns, we are likely to see April-May temperatures reaching record highs every three years.

Weather variability

Our cities are beset with the urban heat island effect, with temperatures 4-12°C higher than rural outlying areas. Meanwhile, humidity has exacerbated the felt temperature, with wet bulb temperatures often rising above 32°C in many cities. More recently, northern India has seen significant variability in the weather. Cold weather in January was followed by a heat wave in February and early March, and hailstorm and heavy rain in the past few weeks.

Weather variability has consequences, especially for agriculture. For example, 90% of India's cumin production is from Gujarat and Rajasthan. The recent weather variability has destroyed the majority of the cumin crop in Rajasthan. From agricultural crop losses, it is a short step towards drought and higher mortality.

Rising temperatures have also led to increasingly unliveable cities. For labourers doing heavy work, heat exposure leads to a loss of 162 hours per year, as per one study. A rise in temperatures directly impacts labour productivity. About 50% of India's workforce is estimated to be exposed to heat during their working hours. This includes marginal farmers, labourers at construction sites and street vendors parlaying their produce on the streets; increasingly, even gig economy workers are affected.

Mitigating the problem

Greening could help mitigate part of the problem. Ideally, for every urban citizen in India, we should have at least seven trees in the urban landscape. However, many urban localities even in leafy Delhi fall short. Development plans for Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities can set up a mandate to increase urban surface area that is permeable, while pushing to increase the density and area of urban forests. Expanding wetlands and restoring dead and decaying ponds/lakes may also help ensure ecological functioning along with reducing urban heat.

We need to reduce the urban heat island effect. This will require a push for greater usage of permeable materials in civic infrastructure and residential construction and enhancing natural landscapes in urban areas. Urban layouts such as brick jalis for ventilation and terracotta tiles to allow hot air to escape, and curbs on anthropogenic heat emissions from vehicles, factories, etc. may be considered. Urban building standards should be upgraded to avoid usage of heat-absorbent galvanized iron and metal roof sheets. Additionally, using cleaner cooking fuels will reduce indoor air pollution, which may also help reduce urban heat. Streets with low ventilation may need further expansion, or an increase in natural vegetation.

The urban design of Chandigarh considered climate responsiveness as a key factor. The city was set up by the foothills of the Shivaliks, between two river beds, while natural green belts were incorporated within the city's master plan. A large green belt of mango trees was also planted around the city to help reduce urban sprawl and to serve as a buffer between the residential city and the industrial suburbs. Local architecture such as mud houses within the region was considered as a template to build climate-responsive architecture. A small rivulet was dammed to create the Sukhna lake, to help cool the city, while small water bodies were developed near large buildings. Parks were planned out in every sector, along with tree plantations alongside all the major roads. Large forest areas were also reserved. Over time, such complementary urban design has been overlaid by modern construction materials and impacted by factors as varied as climate change and traffic congestion. However, the underlying design principles are applicable across Indian cities.

Other measures can also be considered - from embracing public transportation, to reducing personal vehicle usage and, most importantly, reducing the size of landfills. Methane production from mountainous landfills may lead to fires, often exacerbating urban heat and weather variability in our cities. A push for waste segregation, along with solid waste management at source, can help. We need to improve our forecasting ability, including the potential impact of heat on food production. Current econometric models associated with food inflation primarily look at the variability in the monsoon, minimum support prices and vegetable prices. We need to add local heat trends to the mix as well, given the impact of heat on food production, storage and sale. We need detailed policies and guidelines on weather variability and urban heat management at the State, district, city and municipality ward levels.

An El Niño-influenced monsoon bodes ill for marginal farmers and urban migrants. Policymakers must take mitigatory action early, while instituting structural infrastructure measures to help Indians adapt to these conditions.

Policymakers must take mitigatory action early, while instituting structural infrastructure measures to help Indians adapt

Seizing a political opportunity

K. Chandrashekar Rao has played his cards well by bidding for the Vizag Steel Plant

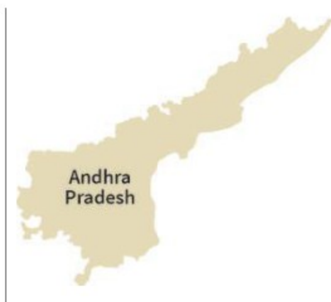
STATE OF PLAY

Sumit Bhattacharjee
sumit.b@thehindu.co.in

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao is known to be an astute politician. His latest move to bid for the Expression of Interest (EOI) floated by Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP), appears to have caught not only the ruling YSR Congress Party in Andhra Pradesh by surprise, but also the Opposition. Mr. Rao, who faces a stiff challenge from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Telangana, seized the chance to take on the BJP as well as other parties including the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and the Jana Sena Party (JSP) in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh.

This was a perfect opportunity for Mr. Rao, who has been harbouring national ambitions for some time now, to foray into Andhra Pradesh politics. He is now the talk of the town: employees of the plant, union leaders cutting across party lines and people who are sentimentally attached to the steel plant are all heaping praise on him. A section of the media has also projected him as a saviour of the steel plant, which has been waging a battle against the privatisation move of the Union government. Mr. Rao also has an opportunity to appeal to the voters of Seemandhra.

The people of the region are sentimentally attached to the steel plant. This is because the plant's journey is one of struggles and sacrifices. The plant came into existence after a decade-long State-wide agitation under the banner, 'Visakha Ukku, Andhrula Hakku' (Visakha Steel, Andhra's Right). About 32 people were killed in November 1966 during the agitation. Ever since the foundation stone was laid on January 20, 1971 by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, and the first phase of production began in October 1991, the plant has seen many ups and down. In 2000, for instance, it was referred to the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction, but after much pressure, it was given a restructuring package.



Knowing the value of the plant to the people, Mr. Rao appears to have played his cards well. His agenda looks to be simple on the face of it – to prove that the BJP is against the development of Telangana and Andhra, and has failed to live up to the promises made in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act of 2014. His move has also put all the other parties on the backfoot.

Andhra Pradesh IT and Industries Minister Gudivada Amarnath has said the government has no interest in participating in any takeover bid for EoI, but also said that the State government is against the privatisation bid. This does not appear to have not gone down well with the VSP employees who said they expected the State government to be more aggressive in putting forward their demand. "They failed despite having about 22 MPs in Parliament," said leaders and members of the Visakha Ukku Parirakshana Porata Committee (VUPPC), the umbrella body of all unions that is fighting against the decision of 100% strategic sale announced by the Union Finance Minister in 2021. The other parties have also not been vocal about the privatisation issue, they said. The resentment towards the BJP can be seen in the loss of sitting BJP MLC candidate, P.V.N. Madhav, in the recent Graduates Constituency MLC election in Uttarandhra (North). The employees feel that only Mr. Rao has responded strongly to the privatisation move. But there is also recognition of the fact that this is a political move for him.

In 2014, the proposed disinvestment of 10% stake in the plant was vehemently opposed by the unions and the public and the government had to back down. The 100% strategic sale has once again upset the employees and the people of the State, and the VUPPC has been able to hold fort so far.

The Telangana government had earlier prevented the privatisation of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL). This time, Mr. Rao sent a proposal for a bid through the SCCL. He also sent leaders from the BRS and directors of SCCL for consultations with the directors of VSP, employees, and members of the VUPPC on the modalities.

One of the main issues plaguing the VSP since its inception is the sanction of captive iron ore and coal mines. Mr. Rao has promised to address both these issues.

The BJP-led Central government is likely to have a say in this matter now. How far Mr. Rao's "master stroke" will benefit him in both the States remains to be seen. It also depends on how he mobilises his forces across the States.

Jamnagar to Kancheepuram: Mapping India's export hotspots

Jamnagar's petroleum products export formed 67% of India's total exports for that commodity

DATA POINT

Jasmin Nihalani & Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Jamnagar in Gujarat is the top exporting district in India. It formed about 24% of India's exports in value terms in FY23 (till January). Surat in Gujarat and Mumbai Suburban in Maharashtra feature second and third by a distance, forming only about 4.5% of the country's exports in the period. The other districts in the top 10 are Dakshina Kannada (Karnataka), Devbhumi Dwarka, Bharuch and Kachchh (Gujarat), Mumbai (Maharashtra), Kancheepuram (Tamil Nadu) and Gautam Buddha Nagar (Uttar Pradesh).

Map 1 shows the district that formed the highest share of a State's exports in FY23. For instance, Kancheepuram formed 33% of Tamil Nadu's exports, the highest share among all the districts in the State. Some top exporting districts formed only around 20% of a State's exports. For example, Indore and Jaipur, the top exporting districts in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, respectively, formed only 21% of their State's total exports each. On the other hand, most top exporting districts in the north-eastern States formed as much as 90% of a State's exports. Gomati (Tripura), Ri Bhoi (Meghalaya) and East Sikkim (Sikkim) formed over 90% of their State's exports. Districts such as Dakshina Kannada, Gautam Buddha Nagar and Ernakulam formed about 40-50% of their respective State's exports. In the map, the size of the circle corresponds to the value of exports. The bigger the circle, the higher the exports.

Jamnagar's dominance can be attributed to the fact that it formed a lion's share of India's surging petroleum exports, while Kancheepuram's most exported commodity was smartphones. **Map 1** also lists the top exported commodity of the top exporting districts in each State. For instance, Kamrup, Assam's top exporting district, exported tea the most; Gautam Buddha Nagar in Uttar Pradesh exported smartphones the most; Raipur in Chhattisgarh exported parboiled rice the most; and Mumbai Suburban in Maharashtra exported diamond the most.

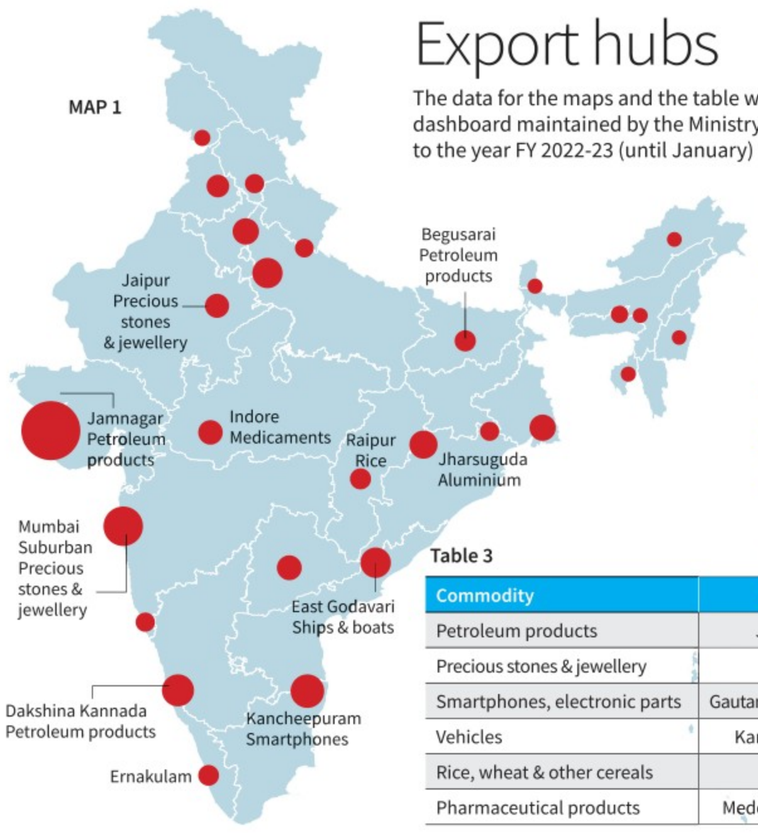
Maps 2A-2F show the top five exporting districts for the top six commodities exported by India. Map 2A shows the top five exporting districts of petroleum products in FY23. Jamnagar at first position is followed by Dakshina Kannada and Begusarai. Map 2B shows the top five exporting districts of precious stones and jewellery which includes Surat, Mumbai, Mumbai Suburban, Jaipur and Kolkata. Map 2C shows the top five exporting districts of rice, wheat and other cereals. Karnal leads the list, which also includes Raipur and East Godavari. Map 2D shows the top five exporting districts of smartphones and electronic parts. This list is led by Gautam Buddha Nagar followed by Kancheepuram, Kolar, Bengaluru Rural, and Kachchh. Map 2E shows the top five exporting districts of vehicles other than railways. Kancheepuram leads this list, which includes Pune, Gurugram, Anantapur and Aurangabad. Map 2F shows the top five exporting districts of pharmaceutical products: Medchal Malkajgiri, Ahmedabad, Ranga Reddy, Solan and Visakhapatnam.

Table 3 shows the share of the top exporting commodity of the top exporting district in India's total exports. For instance, Jamnagar, Gujarat's top exporting district, exported petroleum products the most. And Jamnagar's petroleum products export formed 67% of India's total exports for that commodity. Surat's precious stones and jewellery exports formed 36% of India's total exports for that commodity. Gautam Buddha Nagar's smartphone exports formed 26% of India's exports.

Export hubs

The data for the maps and the table was sourced from the export import dashboard maintained by the Ministry of Commerce. All the data pertains to the year FY 2022-23 (until January)

MAP 1



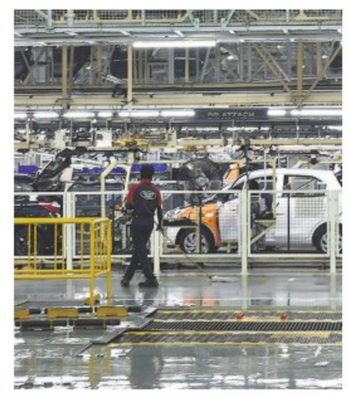


Table 3

Commodity	District	State	Share
Petroleum products	Jamnagar	Gujarat	67%
Precious stones & jewellery	Surat	Gujarat	36%
Smartphones, electronic parts	Gautam Buddha Nagar	Uttar Pradesh	26%
Vehicles	Kancheepuram	Tamil Nadu	21%
Rice, wheat & other cereals	Karnal	Haryana	17%
Pharmaceutical products	Medchal Malkajgiri	Telangana	15%

Petroleum products

MAP 2A

Precious stones & jewellery

MAP 2B

Rice, wheat and other cereals

MAP 2C

Smartphone and electronics

MAP 2D

Vehicles

MAP 2E

Pharmaceutical products

MAP 2F

nihalani.j@thehindu.co.in | vignesh.r@thehindu.co.in

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 18, 1973

Bangla war crimes trials by May-end

Dacca, April 17: The Bangladesh Government to-day announced that it would try 195 Pakistani prisoners of war on charges of serious crimes including genocide by the end of May. Liet. General A.K. Niazi, Commander of the Pakistani occupation forces and Major General Rao Farman Ali are expected to head the list of 195 war criminals, whose names will also be officially announced shortly. The trial would be held here before a special tribunal consisting of judges having the status of Judges of the Supreme Court. An official press note giving details of the proposed trial was released at a news conference by the Foreign Minister Kamal Hossain this afternoon to coincide with the release of the Indo-Bangladesh joint declaration. The vote said investigations into the crimes committed by the Pakistani occupation forces and their auxiliaries were now complete. It said the trials would be held in accordance with universally recognised juridical norms. Eminent international jurists would be invited to observe the trials. The accused would be afforded facilities to arrange for their defence and to engage counsel of their choice, including foreign counsel. The official note said upon the evidence collected, it had been decided to try the 195 persons for serious crimes, which includes genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, breaches of Article 8 of the Geneva Conventions, murder, rape and arson.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 18, 1923

In China

Canton, April 17: Kwangsi troops commanded by Shen Hung Ying whom Peking has appointed acting military Governor of Kwangtung have attacked Canton. Yannanese troops supporting Sun Yat Sen have hitherto repulsed attacks. Fighting is progressing.

Peking, April 17: A Japanese named Maru is endeavouring to arrange a large loan to the Chinese Government secured on revenue from legalised opium monopoly. The Japanese delegation here states that Mara's proposals are entirely unofficial. The scheme has been submitted to the Finance Ministry and will shortly be submitted to the Cabinet. It is understood that some officials are willing seriously to consider the proposals owing to the Government's extreme need of money.

From Page One

Q4 investments at all-time high

The overall share of private investments averaged 65% between Q1 to Q3, but jumped to 72% in Q4.

"The manufacturing sector has emerged as the dominant sector in terms of investment, with its share in total fresh investment increasing from 41.93% in 2021-22 to 53.66% in 2022-23, with new projects outlay in the sector more than doubling from ₹8.08 lakh crore in 2021-22 to over ₹19.85 lakh crore in 2022-23," Projects Today's 90th Survey of project investments noted. "On the flip side, the number of new manufacturing projects declined from 2,759 in 2021-22 to 1,912 in 2022-23," it added.

For the full year, Central and State governments' investment projects grew 95% to ₹11.68 lakh crore from just a shade under ₹6 lakh crore in 2021-22. Private sector investments, on the other hand, jumped 90.7% to ₹25.32 lakh crore in 2022-23 from ₹13.27 lakh crore a year earlier. Foreign investments grew at a faster clip, albeit on a smaller base, to touch ₹4.73 lakh crore compared to ₹2.17 lakh crore in 2021-22.

"We expect the buoyancy in the announcement of fresh investment to continue in FY2024 too unless domestic inflation increases further and international issues like crude oil prices, financial uncertainties, and geopolitical issues puncture the animal spirit of the Indian investors," reckoned Shashikant Hegde, director and CEO of Projects Today.

While several States held global investors' meets to attract fresh investments and signed scores of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), the State that gained the most was Andhra Pradesh which emerged from outside the top 10 States for fresh investments in 2021-22 to the top State in 2022-23. A.P. attracted 306 projects worth ₹7.65 lakh crore last year, which included 57 mega projects with investments of ₹7.28 lakh crore.

Gujarat, which topped investment plans in 2021-22, ended up a distant second last year with 1,008 new projects worth ₹4.44 lakh crore.

'Demand for same-sex union an elitist view'

The legal recognition of same-sex marriage would "seriously affect the interests of every citizen", the Centre said in the affidavit.

In an interesting argument, the Centre said fundamental rights such as the right to choose one's sexual orientation as well as the right to privacy have already been protected under the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019. "Any further creation of rights, recognition of relationship and giving legal sanctity to such relationships can be done only by the competent legislature and not by judicial adjudication," it reasoned.

In an earlier affidavit, the Centre had found the idea of same-sex marriage a threat to the "holy union" of marriage between a biological man and woman, which is a "sacrament and a *sanskar*".

Jagadish Shettar leaves BJP for Congress

"I built the BJP along with former Union Minister Ananth Kumar and former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa. I built the party in north Karnataka. The BJP had given me several positions. I discharged my responsibilities sincerely.... Believing in the Congress's principles, I joined the Congress now. A new chapter in my political life begins," Mr. Shettar said.

He lashed out at the BJP leaders in Karnataka. "A few leaders are controlling the BJP in Karnataka for serving their self-interest. I am not criticising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP president J.P. Nadda. They are unaware of the developments in the BJP in Karnataka. Some leaders are above the party in Karnataka," he said. "I am from the Sangh Parivar and an ABVP leader. But the BJP humiliated me by denying ticket at the last minute. The BJP leaders could have informed me a few days ago," he said.

Mumbai Metro fined for seeking nod to cut trees

The court, however, did not stand in the way of the MMRCL's need to fell 124 trees and transplant 53 trees for the public project. The Bench noted that so far 2,000 trees had been felled and there was no point in forcing a public project to come to a "standstill".

Instead, the court asked the Chief Conservator of Forests to ensure the compliance of directions given to the MMRCL by the Tree Authority for afforestation in the project area and file a report with the top court. The court has also asked the Director, IIT Bombay, to keep a watch on the transplantation of the trees.

On March 15, the Bombay High Court had held that "propriety" required the MMRCL to approach the Supreme Court before felling or transplanting 177 trees, much in excess to the permitted 84 trees.

The Supreme Court on Wednesday noted that the MMRCL had chosen to "overreach" despite the court modifying its own status quo order on November 29 last year to allow it to approach the Tree Authority to fell the 84 trees for the ramp.

Congress leader K.C. Venugopal meets Uddhav amid differences

Meeting comes in the wake of efforts to unify Opposition at the national level and alleged cracks that have developed in the alliance in Maharashtra; the general secretary says they are all together in fight against 'anti-democratic forces'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI/PUNE

Congress leader K.C. Venugopal meets Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray at Matoshree on Monday. ANI

Even as the Congress initiated moves to unify Opposition parties at the national level, the party's general secretary K.C. Venugopal on Monday met Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray in Mumbai on Monday to smoothen alleged cracks that have developed in relations among the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) partners in Maharashtra.

The meeting assumes significance against the backdrop of recent differences between the MVA alliance partners on a number of issues, including their respective stances on Hindutva ideologue V.D. Savarkar and the Shiv Sena (UBT)'s decision to skip a meeting of Opposition parties hosted by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge in Delhi.

Speaking to presspersons after their meeting, Mr. Venugopal said that in the current political situation in India and Maharashtra, Mr. Thackeray has been fighting against anti-democratic forces.

"We have witnessed how democracy has been completely sabotaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Maharashtra. They are using ED [Enforcement Directorate], CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] to target every political party in the Opposition, especially Shiv Sena (UBT)," he said, adding that the Congress stood completely in solidarity with Mr. Thackeray.

"In this fight, we are all together," he said.

Ideological differences

Further, Mr. Venugopal said that every political party has its own ideology, but they had come together. "We have discussed all issues and we are all in agreement to go together to fight against these forces. We will continue the dialogue and want to convey the message that we are together," he said.

In meetings held during the last Parliament session, everybody felt that there should be a broader Opposition unity, he said. "Following which Mr. Kharge and [Congress leader] Rahul Gandhi met [Bihar CM] Nitish Kumar, [Bihar Deputy CM] Tejashwi Yadav and NCP chief Sharad Pawar. The entire Opposition wants to fight together against the dictatorship of Modi," he said.

Mr. Thackeray too said that every party has its own ideology and that is what democracy is and they have come together to keep it alive. "We will fight together," he said.

Asked if Mr. Gandhi had any plans to visit Mumbai, Mr. Venugopal said that he had requested Mr. Thackeray to come to New Delhi to meet Congress leader Sonia Gandhi. "If Mr. Thackeray comes to Delhi, Mr. Gandhi will come to Mumbai," he added.

Mr. Venugopal was accompanied by senior Maharashtra Congress leader Balasaheb Thorat and other local Congress members and met Mr. Thackeray along with his close aide, Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut.

Thorny issues

Apart from thorny issues, sources said another important reason for Mr. Venugopal's visit was to do with Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole – considered a bugbear by both Mr. Sharad Pawar's NCP and Mr. Thackeray's Sena faction. It is no secret that Mr. Patole's blunt style of functioning has alienated senior leaders within the Maharashtra Congress and derailed relations with allies, with Mr. Sharad Pawar reportedly keen on his ouster.

Late in February, Maharashtra Congress leaders across had met All India Congress Committee (AICC) observer Ramesh Chennithala to complain against Mr. Patole's 'unilateral style of functioning' as the feud between Mr. Thorat and Mr. Patole threatened to expose the disunity in the Congress while affecting the MVA's overall unity. This had led to speculation of Mr. Patole's replacement after the Congress' Raipur session.

Meanwhile, other potential schisms within the MVA continued to persist as the buzz about Maharashtra Leader of Opposition and senior NCP leader Ajit Pawar joining the ruling BJP refused to die down. Speaking on Monday, Mr. Raut however said he did not think Mr. Ajit Pawar would ever leave the NCP.

Mr. Raut reiterated NCP chief Mr. Sharad Pawar's assurance to his party leader Mr. Thackeray during their meeting last week that the NCP would never leave the Opposition MVA alliance.

"At the meeting with Mr. Thackeray, Mr. Sharad Pawar had certainly spoken of pressure and threats being applied by Central agencies like ED, the CBI and the police machinery to split the NCP in the manner of the Shiv Sena. But Mr. Pawar had said that while some people may leave the party owing to this pressure, that would be their individual decision. The NCP president has clearly said that the NCP as a party will never leave the MVA alliance," said the Uddhav camp spokesperson.

CBI summons Abhishek Banerjee for questioning

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The Central Bureau of Investigation on Monday issued summons to Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on the basis of an order by the Calcutta High Court in connection with investigation in the job scam.

The summons, dated April 16, by the Anti-Corruption Branch of the CBI was delivered to Mr. Banerjee at 1.45 p.m., despite the Supreme Court earlier in the day staying the execution of a High Court order till April 24.

Reacting to the developments, Mr. Banerjee said the summons in the face of a stay by the top court amounted to "contempt of court". "In its desperation to 'harass' and 'target' me, BJP exposes CBI & ED to contempt of court! SC stayed the Calcutta HC's order in the morning that granted permission to the Central Agencies to summon me. Yet, the 'summon' was hand-delivered today at 1:45 p.m. Grave State of affairs!," the Trinamool leader tweeted.

Meanwhile, the CBI on Monday arrested Jiban Krishna Saha, Trinamool Congress MLA from Burwan in Murshidabad, in the recruitment scam. Mr. Saha is the third Trinamool Congress MLA to be arrested in the case.

Bihar CM announces ₹4-lakh ex gratia for kin of hooch victims

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Making a U-turn from his earlier statement, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday announced a compensation of ₹4 lakh each to families of those who died in hooch-related incidents since 2016.

Mr. Kumar made the statement following the hooch tragedy in Motihari of East Champaran district in which 22 people died on Friday night.

On Monday, the death toll rose to 26.

In December 2022, Mr. Kumar said in the Assembly that there was no question of giving compensation to those who died after consuming illicit liquor and stressed that there should not be any sympathy for them. However on Monday, he said, "It really pains me when I find that so many people are dying after consuming spurious liquor. Despite my efforts to implement total prohibition, people are dying. I spoke to my officials and told them that it is really painful for me that poor people are dying."

"Now I have decided that ₹4 lakh compensation would be given to those who died in hooch incidents since 2016 but with a condition. The family member of the deceased must give in writing to the district magistrate that death took place after consuming illicit liquor and they will also have to declare that they would motivate others not to consume liquor."

Heat stroke death toll 13; Opposition slams Sena-BJP govt. for negligence

The Hindu Bureau
PUNE

Courtesy call: Former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray with the patients at a hospital in Kamothe. PTI

As the heat stroke-related death toll after the Maharashtra Bhushan Award ceremony at Kharghar in Navi Mumbai rose to 13, the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) accused the ruling Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena-BJP dispensation of negligence and demanded that the government be booked for culpable homicide.

The incident drew sharp criticism from the Opposition as well as the public for having made the audience bear the brunt of the blazing sun while the VIPs, ensconced in covered podiums, remained safe from the heat. Union Home Minister Amit Shah gave away the award.

While more than 100 people took ill after Sunday's event, 13 have died so far and 18 are still undergoing treatment at various hospitals.

Leader of the Opposition in the Maharashtra Assembly Ajit Pawar, who visited the MGM Hospital at Kamothe in Navi Mumbai late on Sunday night along with Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray, termed the incident "most unfortunate". Both Mr. Pawar and Mr. Thackeray enquired about the health of the people undergoing treatment there.

Hinting at carelessness on the part of the organisers while fixing the timing of the event, Mr. Pawar said: "It is a well-known fact that during April-May, the temperature is very high. During these days, the temperature touches 40 degrees Celsius. Hence, it needs to be probed as to who had fixed the noon timing for the award function," he said.

Demanding a case of culpable homicide against the government, Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole said the "sloppy planning" on part of the administration took a tragic toll on the people.

Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Sanjay Raut criticised the government for "catering only to VIPs for the award ceremony" and not making provisions for commoners.

"The tragedy might have been averted had the programme been held in the evening. Instead, the event was tailored to suit the Union Home Minister's convenience."

Hate speech: SC notice to Delhi Police on plea seeking FIR against Thakur, Verma

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police had refused to file FIR against Anurag Thakur for the hate speech in 2020

The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice to the Delhi Police on a plea by CPI(M) leaders Brinda Karat and K.M. Tiwari against the trial court's refusal to lodge FIRs against Union Minister Anurag Thakur and BJP leader Pravesh Verma for their alleged hate speeches on anti-Citizenship Amendment Act protests at Shaheen Bagh in 2020.

A Bench of Justices K.M. Joseph and B.V. Nagarathna listed the case for hearing after three weeks.

The court *prima-facie* remarked orally in the hearing that the lower courts' conclusion that sanction under Section 196 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) was required before taking cognisance may be wrong.

Referring to a snippet "*desh ke gaddaro ko goli maaro...*" [shoot the traitors] from one of the alleged speeches, the Bench said the remark "*goli maaro*" was "certainly not said in terms of a medical prescription".

The Delhi High Court in June last year refused to set aside the trial court's refusal to direct the registration of an FIR against Mr. Thakur and Mr. Verma for their alleged hate speeches. The court refused to interfere with the trial court's order and said under the law, the requisite sanction is required to be obtained from the competent authority for the registration of FIR in the present facts.

It noted that the Delhi Police had done a preliminary inquiry and informed the trial court that *prima facie* no cognisable offence was made out and that for ordering any investigation, the trial court was required to take cognisance of evidence before it, which was not permissible without a valid sanction.

Gyanvapi caretakers to meet authorities over *wuzu* facilities

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday paved the way for the caretakers of the disputed Gyanvapi mosque to meet with local authorities on Tuesday and reach a "congenial working arrangement" to facilitate worshippers to observe *wuzu* or ritual ablutions before prayer at the premises.

The fountain in the mosque, where once worshippers observed *wuzu*, remains sealed off after reports surfaced that a *shivling* was found on the spot. The adjacent washrooms also came within the sealed-off portion.

Anjuman Intejamia Masjid had moved the top court urgently, saying the month of Ramzan was on. The mosque's caretakers highlighted how the top court had, in an interim order on May 17 last year, directed the Varanasi District Magistrate to make appropriate arrangements for Muslims to offer *wuzu khana* before *namaz* at the mosque.

'Ramzan is on'

"Let them provide mobile toilets at least... Ramzan is on... It is also an issue of hygiene," senior advocate Huzefa Ahmedi, for the masjid caretakers, urged a Bench led by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud.

"Let the meeting happen tomorrow itself," Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for Uttar Pradesh, assured the court.

SC grants bail to Trinamool Congress's Saket Gokhale

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday granted bail to Trinamool Congress spokesperson Saket Gokhale in a case of alleged misappropriation of money collected through crowdfunding.

The court directed Mr. Gokhale to be released on bail on the FIR registered at the Cyber Crime Police Station in Ahmedabad City, subject to furnishing personal bail bond and sureties to the trial court.

The allegations against Mr. Gokhale include that he collected money through crowdfunding from more than 1,700 people during the pandemic and misappropriated the amount.

Shah trying to bring down Bengal govt., says Mamata

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Accusing Union Home Minister Amit Shah of "conspiring" to bring down her government, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday demanded his resignation.

Ms. Banerjee raised the statement made by Mr. Shah during a public meeting on April 14 where he urged people to give the BJP 35 seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and added that "Mamata *ji*'s government will come down in 2025".

"The Home Minister is saying he will bring down an elected government. After making such a statement, he [Mr. Shah] cannot remain the Home Minister. He should resign," she said.

Ms. Banerjee said the BJP would not win five seats in West Bengal in 2024. She also called for the unity of Opposition, and expressed hope that the BJP would not form a government in 2024.

On the questioning of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal by the CBI, she said the Centre was trying to make an example that it would not spare the Chief Minister.

Manipur BJP MLAs camp in Delhi with grievances against CM Biren Singh

They are seeking the intervention of the central leadership of the party for a change of CM or at least a rejig in the State Cabinet; the MLAs belong predominantly to the Kuki community

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Manipur CM Biren Singh arrives for the first anniversary celebration of the State government at Senapati Public Ground on April 13. ANI

Trouble seems to be brewing for Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh with a group of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLAs arriving in New Delhi to seek the intervention of the central leadership of the party for a change of Chief Minister or at least a rejig in the State Cabinet.

Office-bearers of the BJP in New Delhi confirmed to *The Hindu* that 10 to 12 MLAs were in the national capital with grievances against Mr. Singh.

Suspension of SoO

The MLAs belong predominantly to the Kuki community.

Sources said one of the causes for their grievance was the shelving of the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement of 2008 by the Biren Singh government in March.

The agreement was on the suspension of operations against Kuki insurgent groups, and local people have now been telling their MLAs that this decision and the subsequent crackdowns are having an impact on everyday life in the Kuki areas.

'Like a monarchy'

"The BJP in Manipur and the northeast has gained ground because of the national leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, but of late, because of State BJP and leadership of the State government, we are facing some issues. Leadership in Manipur is not democratic, more like a monarchy and as 2024 approaches, we want these issues sorted out," said one rebel MLA, on condition of anonymity.

Significantly, the BJP MLA from the Langthabal Assembly constituency, Karam Shyam, resigned from the post of Chairman of the Tourism Corporation of Manipur on Monday.

Mr. Shyam, who tendered his resignation letter to Mr. Singh, alleged that he had not been assigned any responsibility in his post.

"I am resigning from the post of chairman of Tourism Corporation of Manipur Limited as I have not been assigned any responsibility as a chairman," he wrote in his resignation letter.

On April 13, BJP MLA Thokchom Radheshyam Singh resigned as the adviser to the Chief Minister, also complaining that he had not been given any responsibility.

Senior BJP leaders said that the MLAs would be given a hearing.

Two ministerial berths are vacant in Manipur.

Govt. should immediately conduct a caste census, Congress chief tells PM

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Mallikarjun Kharge

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi asking his government to conduct a caste census. The pitch from the Congress chief came after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday raised a demand to know the strength of the Other Backward Classes (OBC) in the country.

The Congress, according to sources, is planning to keep the government's reluctance in conducting the caste census at the front and centre of its campaign for the 2024 Lok Sabha election. It is seen as a counter to the Bharatiya Janata Party's successfully tested election strategy of unifying the splintered backward community under the larger Hindutva umbrella.

The biggest question is how many OBCs, tribals and Dalits are there in India, Mr. Gandhi said in his speech in Kolar, Karnataka.

"If we talk of money and power distribution, then the first step should be to find out the size of their population," he said.

He also asked the Union government to make the data from the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) conducted during 2011-12 public.

Reiterating the same point, Mr. Kharge, in his letter dated April 16, coinciding with Mr. Gandhi's Kolar address, said that meaningful social justice and empowerment programmes were incomplete in absence of such data.

The Congress president also flagged the Modi government's failure in conducting the decennial census, which was scheduled to be conducted in 2021.

He wrote, "I am writing to you to once again place on record the demand of the Indian National Congress for an up-to-date Caste Census. My colleagues and I have raised this demand earlier in both Houses of Parliament on a number of occasions as have leaders of many other Opposition parties."

Lobbing the ball firmly in the Union government's court, he added, "In the absence of an updated Caste Census, I am afraid a reliable data base so very essential for meaningful social justice and empowerment programmes, particularly for OBCs, is incomplete. This Census is the responsibility of the Union Government. We demand that it be done immediately and that a comprehensive Caste Census be made its integral part."

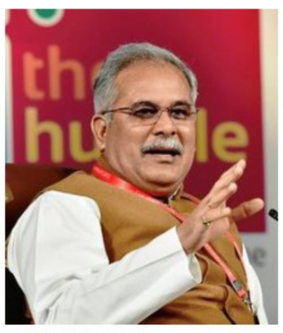
The Congress's demand for a caste census is also seen as a counter to the BJP's campaign against Mr. Gandhi for his 2019 comment about the "Modi surname" that he made during an election rally in Kolar.

The Congress is in touch with other Opposition parties to amplify the campaign for a caste census.

In Bihar, where it is part of the *Mahagatbandhan* government, a caste survey is already being conducted.

Chhattisgarh CM writes to PM seeking inclusion of higher quota Bills in Ninth Schedule

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR


Bhupesh Baghel

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking the inclusion of two amendment Bills allowing for higher quota in jobs and educational institutions, in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.

The Ninth Schedule includes a list of Central and State laws which cannot be challenged in courts.

In Chhattisgarh's case, the two amendment Bills – that pave the way for a 76% quota for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes – were passed unanimously by the Assembly last December, but are yet to receive a nod by the Governor.

Mr. Baghel, in his letter, presented the demographics of the State and wrote that the "socio-economic and educational condition of the OBC people of the State is as weak as that of the SC/ST people. Three-fourths of these classes are farmers, marginal and small farmers and a large number of them are agricultural labourers".

"Keeping in view the special circumstances of the State of Chhattisgarh also, it is only by including the amended provision in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution that the people of the deprived and backward classes will be able to get justice. It is requested that all the concerned may kindly be directed in this regard," he added.

High Court ruling

Last September, the Chhattisgarh High Court struck down a 2013 State government order to allow a 58% quota, holding that reservation above the 50% ceiling was "unconstitutional", followed by the passage of the Chhattisgarh Public Service (Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes Reservation) Amendment Bill and the Chhattisgarh Educational Institutions (Reservation in admission) Amendment Bill.

However, among the many reasons mentioned by former Governor Anusuiya Uikey for refusing to sign the Bills was a Supreme Court ruling on capping the reservations at 50%.

The stalemate between the government and the Raj Bhavan has continued over the past four months despite a change in guard.

On Monday, Chief Minister Baghel again urged Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan to either give his assent or return the Bills to the Assembly.

In the letter, the Chief Minister cited the example of other States and a 2022 Supreme Court ruling to argue in favour of lifting the 50% cap.

Three-member SIT to investigate Atiq killing

Devesh K. Pandey
Mayank Kumar
PRAYAGRAJ/LUCKNOW

On alert: Police personnel deployed outside the Kasari Masari office of gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed as a security measure in Prayagraj on Monday. PTI

The Prayaraj police have constituted a three-member special investigation team (SIT) to probe the killing of gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed and his brother, Khalid Azim, aka Ashraf, inside a hospital complex on April 15.

The SIT will be led by Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime), Prayagraj, Satish Chandra.

A separate three-member team of supervisors has also been formed by Uttar Pradesh Director-General of Police (DGP) R.K. Vishwakarma to ensure time-bound action in the murder case, which will be headed by the Additional Director-General (Prayagraj Zone).

The SIT is expected to soon take custody of the three assailants, identified as Arun Maurya, 18, Lavlesh Tiwari, 22, and Mohit, alias Sunny Singh, 23, who in the guise of mediapersons gained access and gunned down the former MP and his brother.

While Internet services remained suspended and security personnel were deployed in the sensitive areas, life in most parts of Prayagraj was back to normal on Monday.

Chain of events

The police on Monday submitted before a Prayagraj court the sequence of events leading up to the killings while the two were in their custody. The police remand of Atiq and Ashraf in the Umesh Pal murder case was getting over and they were to be produced before the court for further proceedings.

On Sunday, the police produced the three assailants before a magistrate, who sent them to judicial custody. They were kept at the Naini Jail and then shifted to another jail in neighbouring Pratapgarh.

The decision to transfer the trio was taken by authorities because one of Atiq's sons, Ali, is currently lodged in the Naini Jail.

The two other minor sons of Atiq have been kept at a juvenile centre. They, along with their relatives, attended the burial services of their father and uncle at the Kasari Masari graveyard in Prayagraj late on Sunday evening.

Earlier, the State government set up a judicial commission chaired by retired Allahabad High Court judge Arvind Kumar Tripathi to investigate the killing. It will have to submit a report within two months.

According to the police, the incident took place at 10.35 p.m. on Saturday when Atiq and Ashraf were being taken from the Doomanganj police station to the Moti Lal Nehru Mandaliya Chikitsalaya for a routine medical test.

They entered the premises where some mediapersons attempted to take a sound bite from Ahmed. Among them were the three shooters who fired 18 bullets, killing him and his brother on the spot.

'U.P. CM is patronising criminals from his caste'

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW/PATNA

The Samajwadi Party (SP), the principal Opposition party in Uttar Pradesh, accused Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath of patronising strongmen and criminals from his own caste while his administration indulged in selective targeting of criminals.

In the wake of the killing of former MP Atiq Ahmed and his brother, the party tweeted, "Yogi*ji* says he will raze the mafias to the ground. But by eliminating the rival mafias of his own caste mafias, he is preparing the ground for mafia belonging to his own caste to operate openly, extort and commit crimes. Yogi*ji* is using the power of the government and the police for this work."

"Yogi*ji* is preparing a whole group of his own caste mafia under his patronage who will work for him personally. This is the character of this government," the party added.

Justice Joseph recuses from hearing plea against Goel's appointment as EC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Supreme Court judge Justice K.M. Joseph on Monday recused from hearing a petition challenging the appointment of Arun Goel as the Election Commissioner.

In March, Justice Joseph authored the lead opinion in a Constitution Bench judgment which held that the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners should be appointed by the President on the advice tendered by a committee of the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha or the leader of the single largest party in Opposition and the Chief Justice of India.

The judge had observed that what the Election Commission of India required were "honest, independent" Commissioners who could distinguish right from wrong, those who can "ordinarily and unrelentingly take on the high and mighty and persevere in the righteous path".

On Monday, advocates Prashant Bhushan and Cheryl D'Souza said that the entire process of selection of Election Commissioner, which culminated in the appointment of Mr. Goel, was completed in a day between November 18 and 19 last year.

Mr. Bhushan said the appointment was "arbitrary and violative of institutional integrity and independence of Election Commission Of India".

Mr. Goel was due to retire on December 31, 2022. Though the government had claimed Mr. Goel was the youngest of the four persons shortlisted in the panel, the petitioner alleged that there were 160 officers who belonged to the 1985 batch and some of them are younger than him.

"There is no explanation as to why the officers who were younger in age than Sh. Arun Goel and who would have a full tenure of six years as mandated by Section 4 of the Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991 were not empaneled," the petition said.

Provide legible copy of chargesheet to Surjewala, rules SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday directed an Uttar Pradesh court hearing a 23-year-old criminal case against Congress MP Randeep Singh Surjewala to provide him with a legible copy of the chargesheet in order to help him effectively argue his plea for discharge from the case.

A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and Vikram Nath made it clear that it has not made any comments on the merits of the case against Mr. Surjewala.

The Allahabad High Court had recently declined to quash the case pending before a court in Varanasi. The High Court had allowed Mr. Surjewala to apply for discharge before the lower court and had directed the lower court to decide it expeditiously within six weeks.

The case dates back to 2000 when Mr. Surjewala was charged with creating ruckus while protesting against false implication of Congress leaders in Samvasini scandal at Varanasi.

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Interested and eligible candidates may apply and submit their applications online on or before **08.05.2023, 5pm.**
Sd/-
Head-HR&P/Legal

कार्यालय जिला कलक्टर, प्रतापगढ़ (राज.)
क्रमांक:–लेखा/निविदा/2023/3053 दिनांक:–15.04.2023
ई निविदा आंमत्रण सूचना (E NIT 02 Of 2023-24)
इस कार्यालय की निविदा **NIB Code CPR2324A0001 (UBN NO. CPR2324SLOB00001)** द्वारा जिले की समस्त ग्राम पंचायतों, नगरीय वार्ड व चिन्हित स्थानों पर मंहगाई राहत केम्प के आयोजन की आधारभूत व्यवस्था के लिए ऐजेन्सी के चुनाव हेतु ई निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।
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प्रतापगढ़

INBRIEF

Centre to hold conference to address homebuyers' woes

As real estate cases make up around 10% of the total cases in various consumer commissions in the country, the Union Consumer Affairs Department has decided to hold a "large-scale conference" to redress consumer grievances in the real estate sector. The first such meeting with stakeholders and commissions will be held in Mumbai on April 18. The department said its previous efforts to dispose of pending consumer cases were met with remarkable success and the round table in Mumbai will be on"How to effectively redress the grievances pertaining to the real estate sector". The conference is being organised in association with the Government of Maharashtra.

Curfew in 25 Uttarakhand villages after tiger kills two

The Pauri Garhwal district administration in Uttarakhand has imposed a curfew in 25 villages after a tiger killed two people in a week. The curfew has been imposed from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. and all schools have been ordered to remain shut for 48 hours. Ashish Chauhan, District Magistrate, said the curfew has been imposed in the villages of Rikhanikhal and Dhumakot tehsils in view of the tiger attack. The DM has also asked the revenue officers of the two tehsils to camp in affected areas. The Forest Department has installed a cage at the centre point of the villages to catch the big cat.

Top govt. panel takes stock of modification of Indus Treaty

A top government panel on Monday took stock of the ongoing modification process of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) between India and Pakistan. In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs said the sixth meeting of the Steering Committee on matters related to the IWT of 1960 took place on April 17 and it was chaired by the Secretary in the Department of Water Resources, the Ministry of Jal Shakti, and was attended by Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra and other senior officials. "Matters related to the ongoing Neutral Expert proceedings pertaining to the Kishenganga and Ratle Hydroelectric Projects were also discussed," the statement added. PTI

Gujarat couple ends life in a 'sacrificial ritual'

In a macabre act, a couple allegedly died by suicide as part of a sacrificial ritual in Rajkot district of Gujarat on Saturday. According to the police, the couple was practising black magic and it is a case of human sacrifice for *tantrik* rituals. Hemubhai Makwana (38) and his wife Hansaben (35) killed themselves in a hut on their farm in Vinchhiya village. The police have also recovered from the spot a suicide note in which the deceased asked that their parents and two children be taken care of.

Those who require assistance for overcoming suicidal thoughts may contact Aasra (022-27546669)

Russia seeks to right 'huge' trade imbalance

The country wants to import manufacturing equipment, including machinery, from India to replace the West, says Deputy PM Denis Valentinovich Manturov on eve of Russia-India Inter-Governmental Commission meeting; Jaishankar says payments, logistics, certifications are really the key areas

Kallol Bhattacherjee
Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Acknowledging that a significant imbalance in trade heavily in favour of Russia needs addressing in the rupee-ruble trade, visiting Russian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Industry and Trade Denis Valentinovich Manturov said on Monday that his country was keen to import manufacturing equipment, including machinery, from India to replace the West.

His comments come against the backdrop of Western sanctions on Moscow due to the war in Ukraine and payments emerging as a major issue in India-Russia relations.

He is here to co-chair the 24th Russia-India Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) meeting on Tuesday with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, which is expected to review defence, energy and agriculture cooperation between the two countries that have seen issues related to deliveries and payments due to the war in Ukraine. The visiting team includes Alexander Mikheev, Director-General of Rosoboronexport, Russia's top defence company, and Sergey Gorkov of Rosgeo, Russia's top geological exploration company.

Seeking balance

"Payments is one of the issues. Lack of imports from India, it's not enough to use rupees. We need to increase Indian imports so [that] we have balance. For example, with China we have $200-bn trade but it's balanced 50:50," Mr. Manturov told presspersons on the sidelines of the India-Russia Business Dialogue organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry where, accompanied by a high-power delegation, he met with Mr. Jaishankar and Indian industry representatives at a closed-door meeting on Monday.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Denis Valentinovich Manturov, in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

Elaborating, he said the bilateral trade effort is to identify new industrial points which will give additional impetus for trade as the balance is currently in favour of Russia. "We sell more than we purchase. So to purchase more from India, not just raw material or traditional agriculture products. We are more interested in cooperation in machinery," he said.

Addressing the event, Mr. Jaishankar too said payments, logistics and certifications are real concerns.

"The payments issue clearly needs to be worked through," he said while noting the efforts towards payments through rupee-ruble trade for which Vostro accounts were created.

At least 20 leading Russian banks have opened Special Rupee Vostro Accounts in authorised dealer banks in India to help fast track payments but Monday's remarks from the Russian side indicate that the initiative is yet to receive active official encouragement.

The Russian Deputy PM further said that they cannot gain 100% autonomy and that is "impossible."

"We need to have specific areas to be independent, issues of national security and military," he said. "We pay special attention to the issues of mutual access of production to the markets of our countries. Together with Eurasian Economic Commission, we are looking forward to intensifying negotiations on Free Trade Agreement with India," Mr Manturov said.

NCERT says reference on Azad deleted in 2014-15

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The reference to freedom fighter and India's first Education Minister Maulana Azad was dropped from the Class 11 political science textbook in 2014-15, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) said on Monday.

"This was done as a regular practice of reprinting NCERT textbooks, updating and correcting the information," it said.

The council said the textbook for the 2014-15 session was finalised for printing in October 2013.

The Hindu reported on April 12 that Mr. Azad's reference appeared in the older version of the textbook but not in the latest version.

The NCERT also claimed that the 2019 and 2020 versions of the textbook did not have Mr. Azad's reference.

In the first chapter of the textbook, titled "Constitution - why and how", a line about the Constituent Assembly meetings previously had mention of Azad too.

In another statement, the NCERT said, "In view of avoiding any confusion at the level of teachers and students, minor deletion or addition if any are not notified.

(With PTI inputs)

India to host summit on Buddhism

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India will host an international summit on Buddhism here on April 20 and 21. Delegates from 30 countries will participate, a notable exception being China. Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, is also unlikely to attend the two-day conclave.

The maiden conference being organised by the Union Culture Ministry and the International Buddhist Confederation will discuss contemporary global issues through a Buddhist perspective.

"India is the birthplace of Buddhism. The summit aims to find solutions to problems such as climate change, poverty, and conflict, among others, by exploring the Buddhist teachings and practices," Union Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy said.

Over 170 delegates from countries such as Mexico, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Japan, and 150 from India will participate in the summit to be held in the national capital.

The delegates include prominent scholars, monks, diplomats and members of Buddhist organisations across the globe. The largest number of delegates are from Sri Lanka (20) and Vietnam (30).

Abhijit Haldar, Director General of International Buddhist Confederation, said that while no delegate had confirmed from China, there would be two participants from Taiwan.

"The invitations were sent to various Buddhist institutions and not to governments," Mr. Haldar added.

He also mentioned that the Dalai Lama might not attend the event due to "health issues".

PM to open conclave

The conference themed "Responses to contemporary challenges from philosophy to praxis" will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The discussion will be under four themes – Buddha Dhamma and peace, Buddha Dhamma: environmental crisis, health and sustainability, preservation of Nalanda Buddhist tradition and Buddhist pilgrimage, living heritage and relics.

Utsa Patnaik

Utsa Patnaik wins Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2023

The Hindu Bureau

Utsa Patnaik, an economist of national and international repute, has been selected for the Malcolm Adiseshiah Award, 2023.

The award is given every year by the Malcolm & Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust. The prestigious national award honours outstanding social scientists selected by a national-level jury specially constituted for this purpose, from the nominations received.

This year, the jury unanimously selected Professor Patnaik, according to a press release.

The award will be given with a citation and a prize money of ₹2 lakh at a function to be held in Chennai. The date of this event will be announced shortly by the Trust.

Indian economist Prabhat Patnaik won the award in 2022.

Pittas find new haven in Odisha districts

In the first-ever census carried out in Kendrapara and Jagatsingpur, 179 of the nearly threatened birds were counted; information on their distribution, habitat and breeding collected

The Hindu Bureau
BHUBANESWAR

In the first-ever census of mangrove pitta birds carried out in two coastal districts of Odisha, 179 such birds were sighted.

Mangrove pitta birds are a nearly threatened species found in a few pockets of eastern India, including Bhitarkanika in Odisha and the Sundarbans in West Bengal.

The first census of mangrove pitta (*Pitta megharencha*) birds was focused on the mangrove patches all along the coasts of Kendrapara and Jagatsingpur districts.

"The mangrove pitta is found in coastal mangrove forests of India, foraging on the ground and resting on the trees," Gopinath Sudarshan Yadav, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Rajnagar Mangrove Forest Division, said.

Mr. Yadav said information had been collected on the distribution, habitat and breeding of the birds along the coastal mangroves. "In this exercise, a total of 32 teams were deployed in 32 pre-identified segments. The census was carried out by point count method, either by walking in the forest or using country boats in the creeks. A total of 179 individual mangrove pitta birds were counted. The highest concentration of the birds has been found in the mangroves near the Mahipura river mouth inside the Bhitarkanika National Park," the DFO said.

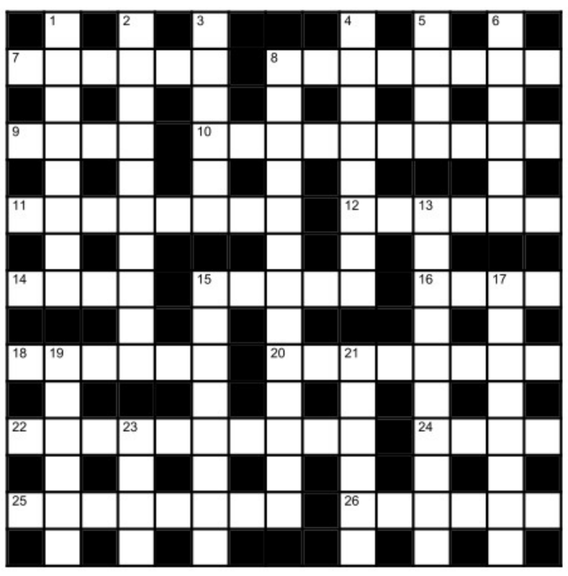
Place to thrive: Personnel involved in the census inside the Bhitarkanika Mangrove Sanctuary in Odisha. BISWARANJAN ROUT

TH CROSSWORD + 13842

(set by Crescent)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

7 I pass on rent in return for some food (6)
8 Unconditional love in answer touching subtle rogue (8)
9 Grey area, say about diamonds (4)
10 Bitterness at university staff reported in public opinion survey (6,4)
11 Cape with castle, perhaps one in a key position (5,3)
12 Provide fellow in America with choice of bank in Finland? (6)
14 Main line is shut (4)
15 Wife gets to fix the entire thing (5)
16 French priest caught naked (4)
18 Cold war essentially over parts of the moon disregarding rule in space (6)
20 Decline in hospital doubling sick beds (8)
22 Santa's reindeer heading for ice floe dancing to show spirit (4,2,4)
24 Washed out article shrinking (4)
25 All that is uniform and is never varying (8)
26 Minister ending in lock-up burning with malice (6)

Down

1 Show cause notice written up allowing one with government to pry (8)
2 Could be knight or cook? (6,4)
3 Police malign a religious symbol (6)
4 Kiss thus reciprocated by the French fetching cuddles (8)
5 Fine cut exhibiting the very opposite of a smash hit (4)
6 Flatter relation being taken in by extremes of sugar (6)
8 Ailing model to pose eventually (3,2,4,4)
13 Swank of cat chasing female badger (5,5)
15 New operator rises spreading tired arms (8)
17 Device to cut the Reverend's rising volume (8)
19 Compelled to follow a swarm (6)
21 Impolite term for youth with AIDS (6)
23 Deadly sin of diplomat expressing nothing (4)

SUDOKU

	4				5	6		
	6			4	7	8		
			8		3			
						7		9
		7	6		8	3		
5		2						
			7		9			
		3	5	1			6	
		9	3				1	

No.SS5772 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

H	I	N	D	M	O	S	T	■	F	L	Y	I	N	G
E	■	E	■	O	■	E	■	■	■	E	■	N	■	O
A	P	P	E	T	I	T	E	■	A	M	U	S	E	D
R	■	A	■	O	■	T	■	B	■	O	■	U	■	S
S	O	L	A	R	C	E	L	L	■	N	U	R	S	E
E	■	I	■	■	■	E	■	U	■	A	■	E	■	N
■	■	■	I	R	I	S	■	E	N	D	U	R	E	D
A	■	A	■	O	■	■	■	■	■	E	■	S	■	S
I	N	S	E	C	T	S	■	W	I	S	H	■	■	■
R	■	B	■	K	■	O	■	I	■	■	■	C	■	A
W	H	E	T	S	■	B	Y	N	O	M	E	A	N	S
O	■	S	■	O	■	S	■	S	■	I	■	R	■	P
M	O	T	T	L	E	■	C	O	L	L	A	P	S	E
A	■	O	■	I	■	■	■	M	■	E	■	E	■	N
N	O	S	I	D	E	■	B	E	T	R	O	T	H	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	6	8	3	1	7	4	5	9
1	5	7	4	6	9	2	3	8
3	4	9	8	5	2	1	6	7
6	7	1	2	4	3	8	9	5
5	9	2	7	8	6	3	4	1
4	8	3	1	9	5	6	7	2
9	1	6	5	3	8	7	2	4
7	3	4	9	2	1	5	8	6
8	2	5	6	7	4	9	1	3

FAITH

Traits of righteous people

Tamil work Thrikadukam lists three things necessary for one's own good, elaborated R. Narayanan in a discourse. One must earn money with a view to helping others. One must speak sweet words. One must live a virtuous life. These three qualities will save a man from hell, says Thrikadukam. Thirukkural, which offers a lot of valuable advice, also talks about how we should come to conclusions. We may hear a lot of things from various sources about some incident, or about a person. We must not jump to conclusions on the basis of what we hear. Thirukkural says that it is our responsibility to check out the veracity of the statements coming from various people, and then arrive at a conclusion. Sirupanchamoolam says that we should share our wealth with others, and also learn to curb anger. These are the characteristic traits of righteous people. The world is kept alive and thriving only because of the presence in it of virtuous people.

There were rules to be followed even in warfare, and a verse in Purananuru brings this out. Before the war began, a drum would be sounded, warning women and children to go to safe places. It was also the norm that civilian areas, places where people gathered, temples and places where food was served to the needy, would be outside the war zone. Poet Avvaiyar says in Nalvazhi that when a river runs dry, one can walk across it, and at such times, one finds the sand scorching at midday. But if you dig the river bed a little, the water under the surface is cool. Likewise, generous men, even when they lose their riches, will continue to give to others whatever they can.

PARIS

French court acquits Air France, Airbus over 2009 Rio-Paris crash

AP

A French court on Monday acquitted Air France and plane manufacturer Airbus in a trial over the 2009 crash of a Rio-Paris flight that killed 228 people. The court said that even if "errors" had been committed, "no certain link of causality" between those shortcomings and the accident "could be proven". AFP

LONDON

U.K. PM Rishi Sunak faces probe over wife's business interest

AFP

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is facing a watchdog inquiry under his parliamentary declaration of interest obligations related to a Budget policy that could benefit his wife, Akshata Murty, through her business interest in a childcare firm. The inquiry has been opened by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards. PTI

YANGON

Myanmar to free 3,000 prisoners in Buddhist New Year amnesty

AFP

Myanmar's junta on Monday began releasing more than 3,000 prisoners to mark the Buddhist New Year, without specifying whether those jailed in its bloody crackdown on dissent would be freed. The military has arrested thousands since its coup more than two years ago, which plunged the country into turmoil. AFP

TAIPEI

U.S. warship sails through Taiwan Strait days after drills by China

AFP

A U.S. warship sailed through the waters separating Taiwan and mainland China, days after Beijing staged war games around the island. Western Navies regularly conduct "freedom of navigation operations" to assert the international status of regional waterways such as the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea. AFP

Fighting rages in Sudan as civilian death toll nears 100

Paramilitary chief Gen. Daglo calls Army chief Al-Burhan "a radical Islamist" and vows to "bring him to justice"; the military blames the RSF for launching the attack; calls for ceasefire grow

Agence France-Presse
KHARTOUM

Unending exodus: People walk past shuttered shops in Khartoum on Monday. The city was witness to a third day of heavy fighting. AP

Explosions rocked the Sudanese capital Khartoum on Monday as fighting between the Army and paramilitary forces led by rival Generals raged for a third day with the death toll surpassing 100.

The violence erupted on Saturday after weeks of power struggles between the two Generals who seized power in a 2021 coup – Sudan's Army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his deputy, Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who commands the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

The conflict, which has seen air strikes, tanks on the streets, artillery fire and heavy gunfire in crowded neighbourhoods both in Khartoum and other cities across Sudan, has triggered international demands for an immediate ceasefire.

Gen. Daglo took to Twitter to call for the international community to intervene against Gen. Burhan, branding him a "radical Islamist who is bombing civilians from the air".

"We will continue to pursue Al-Burhan and bring him to justice," he said, adding: "The fight that we are waging now is the price of democracy."

In his only statement since the fighting flared, Gen. Burhan told *Al Jazeera* on Saturday that he was "surprised by Rapid Support Forces attacking his home" and that what was happening "should prevent the formation of forces outside the Army".

The conflict has claimed the lives of at least 97 civilians and "dozens" of fighters from both sides, medics said, adding about 942 people have been injured.

Kremlin critic Kara-Murza jailed in Russian treason case for 25 years

Reuters
MOSCOW

Vladimir vs Vladimir: Opposition activist Vladimir Kara-Murza speaks to his lawyer in a courtroom in Moscow on Monday. AP

Outspoken Kremlin critic Vladimir Kara-Murza was jailed for a quarter of a century by a Moscow court on Monday, the harshest sentence of its kind since Russia invaded Ukraine, after it found him guilty of treason and other offences he denied.

Mr. Kara-Murza, 41, a father of three and an Opposition politician who holds Russian and British passports, spent years speaking out against President Vladimir Putin and lobbied Western governments to impose sanctions on Russia and individual Russians for purported human rights violations.

State prosecutors, who had requested the court to jail him for 25 years, had accused him of treason and of discrediting the Russian military after he criticised what Moscow calls its "special military operation" in Ukraine.

'Murderers' regime'

In a *CNN* interview broadcast hours before he was arrested, Mr. Kara-Murza had alleged that Russia was being run by a "regime of murderers".

In his final speech to the court last week, Mr. Kara-Murza had compared his own trial, which was held behind closed doors, to Josef Stalin's show trials in the 1930s and had declined to ask the court to acquit him, saying he stood by and was proud of everything he had said.

"Criminals are supposed to repent of what they have done. I, on the other hand, am in prison for my political views. I also know that the day will come when the darkness over our country will dissipate," he had said.

Shortly after sending tens of thousands of troops into Ukraine in February last year, Russia introduced sweeping wartime censorship laws which have been used to silence dissenting voices across society.

"Discrediting" the Army can currently be punished by up to five years in prison, while spreading deliberately false information about it can attract a 15-year jail sentence.

Extremists destroy Ahmadi place of worship in Pakistan

Press Trust of India
LAHORE

Radical Islamists in Pakistan allegedly attacked and demolished an over 100-year-old place of worship of the minority Ahmadi community in the Punjab province, the police said on Monday.

The incident occurred on Sunday at the 118-year-old Ahmadi worship place in the Sargodha district of the province.

"A good number of workers of Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) on Sunday gathered outside the worship place of the Ahmadi community in Ghooghiat in Sargodha district, some 200 kilometres from Lahore," a police official said on Monday.

"They chanted slogans against Ahmadis, venting out their anger for building minarets at their worship place," he added.

According to the TLP, the Ahmadi worship place was built like a mosque, the official said. Members of the minority community present had to scale walls to save their lives, the official said.

The Pakistani government does not consider Ahmadis to be Muslims, and the Ahmadis are not allowed to call themselves Muslims in Pakistan by a law passed in 1974.

Bangladesh to pay Russia in yuan for nuclear plant

Reuters
DHAKA

Bangladesh and Russia have agreed to use yuan to settle payment for a nuclear plant Moscow is building in the South Asian country, a Bangladesh government official said on Monday.

Bangladesh is constructing the first of two nuclear power plants in collaboration with Russia's state-owned atomic company Rosatom in a $12.65 billion project, 90% of which is financed through a Russian loan repayable within 28 years, with a 10-year grace period. "Russia wanted us to make payment in rouble but that's not possible for us. So we have agreed to pay in Chinese yuan," said Uttam Kumar Karmaker, a senior official in the Bangladesh Economic Relations Division.

The project will help curb frequent power cuts which analysts expect to worsen this year as Bangladesh's ability to import fuels has taken a hit following a rapid decline in the value of its currency and foreign exchange reserves.

Separately, Bangladesh will import four spot LNG cargoes for delivery in June to meet increased power demand over the peak summer season, the chairman of Petrobangla said.

भारत कोकिंग कोल लिमिटेड
(कोल इण्डिया लिमिटेड की एक अनुषंगी कंपनी)
BHARAT COKING COAL LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
(एक मिनीरत्न कंपनी / A Miniratna Company)
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम / A Government of India Undertaking)
बीसीसीएल BCCL भारत कोकिंग कोल लिमिटेड Bharat Coking Coal Limited
G20 INDIA 2023
आज़ादी का अमृत महोत्सव

NOTICE

All the tenders* issued by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of BCCL **www.bcclweb.in**, Coal India Limited (CIL) e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in**. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM Portal **https://gem.gov.in**.
*This is applicable to all Open (Domestic / Global) Tenders issued through e-procurement portal of CIL.

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL ASC CENTRE & COLLEGE
AGRAM – POST, BANGALORE-560007
Phone: 080 25550677
Website: www.apsasc.edu.in

Tender Notice

Sealed Tenders are invited for Brick and Masonary work for construction of Main Office and SO Office at first floor of new Administrative Block. Tender Enquiry/Form (also uploaded on website for reference) to be collected from school office after submission of DD in favour APS ASC Centre & College for ₹1,000/- from 18 April to 24 April 2023 (1000hrs to 1300hrs). Last date to submit filled tender form is 25 April 2023 at 1130 AM.

Presiding Officer For School Management

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Chief Commissioner, Annex Building-1,
N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002

No:BBMP/Comm/PSR(G)/46/2023-24 **FORM III** Date: 06.04.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

In exercise of powers conferred under section 14-B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act 1961 the following Area mentioned in the schedule below is required by The Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, N.R. Square, Bengaluru -560 002 for **Widening of Channasandra-Hennuru Road from Channasandra-Kalkere Main Road to Hennuru Main Road Via Horamavu Lake and Banjara Layout, as per RMP-2015 Width 24:00 Mtrs Ch: 0.00 Mt to 1037 Mtrs.**

The following land / building owners have opted for Development Rights in lieu of monetary compensation under the Right to Fair Compensation and transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Development Rights will be given by the Authority as twice the land area surrendered and two times the building area surrendered and as estimated by the value of the building area surrendered (valuated as per PWD norms) divided by the market value of the land on which the building is constructed.

The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose and Development Right Certificate (DRCs) are to be issued in lieu of monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions are to be addressed to the Special Land Acquisition officer, O/o the Deputy Commissioner (Land Acquisition and TDR) Head Office, BBMP within thirty days from the date of publication of this Notification.

List of Land / Building area surrendered and landowners for which DRC is to be issued.

Name of the District: **Bengaluru Urban** Name of the Taluk: **Bengaluru East** Name of the Village: **Kalkere**

Sy.No/ Khatha No.	Type of Land		Nature of Land			Dimension of the Land/ Plot & Extent in Sq.M		Boundaries of the Land / Plot				Building Details			Present Activity on Land/Building (Specify Specific activity such as Shop, Office, Factory, Apartment, Individual house etc.,	Market (guide -lines) value of the land Per Sq.M (in Rs.)	Name and address of the owner of the plot/Land for Which DRC is to be issued
	Vacant	Built up	Agriculture	Converted undeveloped	Approved Layout / developed Land Building Site	Dimension	Extent	North	South	East	West	Extent in Sq.M	Type of Construction & No.of Floors	Floor Area Ratio			
Sy No: 576/6 (Old Sy No.576/1) Khatha No:109	Vacant Land			Converted BBMP 'A' Khatha Land		504.00 Sqm		Remaining Sy No:576/6 of (old Sy No: 576/6)	Road	Sy No: 576/1	Sy No: 576/5 (Old Sy No: 576/4)	Nill	Nill	Nill	Vacant	85,000/-	Sri. D Revanna S/o, Doddaiah, Residing at No:293, Kalkere Village, Horamavu Post, Bengaluru-560043

Objections and suggestions made be submitted at the address specified below:

Name and address of the divisional / Sub divisional / branch offices	Special Land Acquisition Officer,1st Floor, Room No.107, Annex Building-3, N.R. Square, BBMP, Bengaluru - 560 002.

Sd/-
Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

SpaceX postpones maiden test flight of the world's biggest rocket Starship

Agence France-Presse
STARBASE

Biding time: SpaceX's Starship at the company's Boca Chica launchpad near Brownsville, Texas, in the U.S. on Monday. REUTERS

SpaceX on Monday postponed the first test flight of Starship, the most powerful rocket ever built, designed to send astronauts to the moon and Mars and beyond.

Liftoff of the gigantic rocket was called off just minutes ahead of the scheduled launch time because of a pressurisation issue in the booster stage, SpaceX said.

SpaceX founder Elon Musk said a pressure valve appeared to be frozen, forcing a postponement of the launch which had been planned for 8.20 a.m. Central Time (6.25 p.m. IST) from Starbase, the SpaceX spaceport in Texas.

"Learned a lot today, now offloading propellant, retrying in a few day," Mr. Musk tweeted.

Delay of 48 hours

SpaceX said the launch will be delayed for at least 48 hours.

The U.S. space agency NASA has picked the Starship spacecraft to ferry astronauts to the moon in late 2025 – a mission known as Artemis III – for the first time since the Apollo programme ended in 1972.

Starship consists of a 50-metre-tall spacecraft designed to carry crew and cargo that sits atop a 230-foot-tall first-stage Super Heavy booster rocket.

Mr. Musk had warned ahead of the test that a delay was likely. "It's the first launch of a very complicated, gigantic rocket.

NASA will take astronauts to lunar orbit itself in November 2024 using its own heavy rocket called the Space Launch System (SLS), which has been in development for more than a decade.

Starship is both bigger and more powerful than SLS.

It generates 17 million pounds of thrust, more than twice that of the Saturn V rockets used to send Apollo astronauts to the Moon.

INBRIEF

CEO Cook may greet clients at Apple's first store in India

Apple's chief executive Tim Cook is likely to welcome customers to the iPhone-maker's first store in India, which is scheduled to open at the BKC business district here on Tuesday, company executives said. The 20,000-sq. ft store is being unveiled as the company marks 25 years in India. The 100-strong team on the floor can speak 18 Indian languages, said Apple's SVP for retail Deirdre O'Brien. The firm is set to unveil another store in New Delhi's Saket on April 20. Mr. Cook is expected to meet PM Narendra Modi. PTI

Invesco exits ZEEL, sells entire stake for ₹1,004 cr.

Invesco on Monday divested its entire stake – 5.11% – in Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. for ₹1,004 crore through an open market transaction. Segantii India Mauritius, Morgan Stanley Asia Singapore Pte and Goldman Sachs Singapore Pte ODI were among the buyers of the shares. U.S.-based investment firm Invesco, through its arm OFI Global China Fund LLC, offloaded the shares in Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. (ZEEL). PTI

'Diesel sales jumped in first half of April on agri pick-up'

Diesel sales in India jumped up sharply in the first half of April as agricultural activity pick-up and trucking increased to meet industrial demand, preliminary industry data showed on Monday. Demand for diesel soared more than 15% to 3.45 million tonnes in the first half of April compared with a year earlier. Month-on-month sales rose 8.4% when compared with 3.19 million tonnes of diesel consumed in the first half of March that had witnessed seasonal slowdown. PTI

March wholesale price rise slows to 1.34% on base effect

Wholesale price inflation cools to slowest pace in more than two years; deceleration marks tenth successive month that the WPI Index has declined, following a record high in May 2022

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Wholesale price rise slowed to 1.34% in March, marking the most benign inflation rate since October 2020, with manufactured products' prices falling close to 0.8% from a year earlier, when overall wholesale inflation was 14.5%.

Aided by base effects, this was the tenth successive month that wholesale inflation has cooled after scaling a record high of 16.6% in May 2022. Inflation measured by the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) had stood at 3.85% in February 2023. While the Wholesale Food Index saw a slight dip from the 2.8% uptick in February to 2.3% in March, primary articles inflation eased from 3.3% to 2.4% last month. Fuel and power inflation cooled from 14.8% in February to 9%, making this the first instance in two years that the rate has dropped below 10%. Bucking the overall trend, however, inflation in food articles accelerated to a 5-month high of 5.5%, from 3.8% in February.

Retail inflation eased to a 15-month low of 5.66% in March, largely because the year-earlier rate was almost 7%.

Easing inflation

Wholesale prices dropped to a 30-month low in March aided significantly by base effects

- A fall in the prices of manufactured goods added to the deceleration
- Inflation in food articles, however, rose to a 5-month high
- Retail inflation faced by consumers had dropped to a 15-month low in March

Infosys slides 9% on dull revenue forecast

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Shares of Infosys on Monday tanked more than 9%, wiping out ₹59,349.66 crore from its market valuation, after it reported a lower-than-expected growth in the fourth quarter net profit and gave a weak 4-7% revenue growth guidance for FY24.

The stock tumbled 9.4% to settle at ₹1,258.10 on the BSE. During the day, it plunged 12.21% to ₹1,219 – its 52-week low.

BSE slides 0.86%

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 520.25 points, or 0.86%, to finish at 59,910.75, pulled down by Infosys and weak trends in other IT counters.

"The worse-than-expected Q4 results from Infosys with only 4-7% revenue growth for FY24 will drag down IT stocks impacting the Nifty," said V.K. Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

'High rates raise SME loan default risk'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Higher interest rates in India have increased repayment amounts and limited refinancing options for Small & Medium Enterprises (SME) borrowers with loans against property (LAP), heightening the risk of delinquencies and defaults, Moody's said.

"This situation is credit negative for Indian Asset Backed Securities (ABS) backed by LAP," according to the Moody's report.

Repo rate rise

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had raised its policy repo rate by 2.5 percentage points to 6.5% in a series of rate increases since May last year.

Securitised LAPs have floating interest rates, so repayment amounts have risen as lenders raised borrowing costs. Even if the RBI were to keep rates on hold from here, the repayment amounts will weigh on SME borrowers' capacities to repay debt, it said.

Further, the rate increases have reduced the likelihood that LAP borrowers will be able to refinance their debt on more affordable terms, it added.

Moody's also emphasised that slowing property price growth was curtailing recovery prospects.

WTO panel rules against India in IT tariffs row with EU, others

Reuters
GENEVA

A World Trade Organization (WTO) panel said India had violated global trading rules in a dispute with the European Union (EU), Japan and Taiwan over import duties on IT products.

"We recommend India bring such measures into conformity with its obligations," the report said.

In 2019, the EU challenged India's introduction of import duties of between 7.5% and 20% for a wide range of IT products, such as mobile phones and components, as well as integrated circuits, saying they exceeded the maximum rate. Japan and Taiwan filed similar complaints that same year. The EU is India's third-largest trading partner, as per the European Commission.

'Legal purgatory?'

India's diplomatic mission in Geneva did not immediately respond to a request for comment on whether it would appeal against the ruling. If it does, the case will sit in legal purgatory since the WTO's top appeals bench is no longer functioning due to U.S. opposition to judges' appointments.

The panel said India had already brought some of the challenged tariffs in line with global trading rules since last year. It, however, rejected Japan's claim that New Delhi's customs notification lacked 'predictability.'

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	59,911	-0.86
US Dollar	82.01	-0.19
Gold	60,660	-1.01
Brent oil	84.77	–

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1878.75	8.00
Adani Ports	664.70	3.05
Apollo Hosp	4386.70	-11.60
Asian Paints	2843.10	33.35
Axis Bank	864.55	0.20
Bajaj Auto	4254.35	-34.00
Bajaj Finserv	1341.15	-0.15
Bajaj Finance	5961.45	57.00
Bharti Airtel	759.65	-7.40
BPCL	335.70	3.45
Britannia Ind	4338.60	74.40
Cipla	906.45	-9.30
Coal India	229.60	4.10
Divis Lab	3162.65	-21.30
Dr Reddys Lab	4852.30	-0.60
Eicher Motors	3229.00	15.95
Grasim Ind	1723.65	22.55
HCL Tech	1042.20	-29.65
HDFC	2742.05	-44.80
HDFC Bank	1666.65	-25.80
HDFC Life	533.40	1.55
Hero MotoCorp	2465.95	18.90
Hindalco	428.70	6.65
Hind Unilever	2551.85	15.65
ICICI Bank	901.30	2.30
IndusInd Bank	1124.35	15.05
Infosys	1258.30	-130.90
ITC	400.15	4.55
JSW Steel	721.20	0.55
Kotak Bank	1895.15	25.65
L&T	2214.00	-44.75
M&M	1212.95	8.40
Maruti Suzuki	8674.65	3.85
NestleIndia	20244.40	779.05
NTPC	169.60	-3.45
ONGC	160.15	1.40
PowerGrid Corp	236.65	5.45
Reliance Ind	2367.45	11.95
SBI Life	1145.35	15.10
State Bank	544.00	11.05
Sun Pharma	998.70	-4.80
TataConsumerProduct	713.20	-6.40
Tata Motors	472.15	2.65
Tata Steel	107.15	-0.35
TCS	3139.50	-49.35
Tech Mahindra	1029.95	-56.90
Titan	2605.60	19.95
UltraTech Cement	7742.45	87.20
UPL	737.15	0.15
Wipro	361.35	-6.95

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on April 17

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	81.77	82.09
Euro	89.81	90.17
British Pound	101.45	101.85
Japanese Yen (100)	61.02	61.26
Chinese Yuan	11.90	11.95
Swiss Franc	91.49	91.85
Singapore Dollar	61.42	61.67
Canadian Dollar	61.21	61.45
Malaysian Ringitt	18.49	18.58
Australian Dollar	54.84	55.06

Source:Indian Bank

Mitsubishi Electric to set up $222-million AC plant in Tamil Nadu

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Once completely operational, the unit can make 3 lakh ACs and 6.5 lakh compressors a year

Mitsubishi Electric India Pvt. Ltd. will set up a $222 million plant to manufacture air-conditioners and compressors at 'Origins by Mahindra,' an industrial park near here.

First in India

The plant will be Mitsubishi Electric's first AC and compressor manufacturing facility in India and is expected to begin operations by October 2025.

Once fully operational, it will enable Mitsubishi Electric to achieve an annual production capability of 3 lakh units of room ACs and 6.5 lakh units of compressors.

An announcement to this effect was made by Mahindra Industrial Park Chennai Ltd., a joint venture between Mahindra World City Developers Ltd. and Sumitomo Corporation of Japan.

"The new facility is expected to strongly support stable product supply as the Indian market continues to grow due to its increasing population and expanding economy," said Kazuhiko Tamura, MD, Mitsubishi Electric.

VRL Logistics plans ₹697-cr. chest to buy 1,667 trucks in FY24

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Hubballi-based logistics major VRL Logistics Ltd., (VRL) has set aside a capex of ₹697 crore during the current fiscal to replenish its ageing fleet, which is more than 15 years old.

As per the proposal, in FY24, VRL plans to purchase 1,560 truck chassis from Ashok Leyland Ltd. (ALL) and 107 units from Tata Motors and construct truck bodies either in-house or via outsourcing.

At the same time, it will withdraw 1,220 goods transport vehicles that have been in operation for more than 15 years. As of March 2023, VRL had 5,717 vehicles, it said in a filing.

> The company will also withdraw 1,220 goods transport vehicles that have been in operations for more than 15 years

On Monday, ALL announced it had received an order from VRL for 1,560 trucks comprising AVTR 3120 and AVTR 4420 TT models. The trucks have advanced features to bring more efficiency and profitability to VRL's expanding fleet, it said in a statement.

VRL said the capex is spread over 12 months and is expected to help meet its near- and medium-term business demand.

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ASTROLOGY

RUDRAKSH REMEDY (since1518): Kundli, Job, Vastu, Luv, Grah. 40 yrs exp Global Astro- 9896304000

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KALURAM Tejaramji, R/a No.137, 1st Stage, 5th Phase, Mahaganapathinagar, Bangalore-560010 have changed my name to Kaluram Mali vide affidavit dt: 16.04.2023 sworn before Notary Smt.A.Manjula, B'lore.

I, RIYAS Muhammed Kuniya Kandiyil, R/O Flat No. 1904, Prestige Kew Garden, Off HAL Rd, Yamalur, Blr–37, have changed my daughter's name from Aliya to Aliya Riyas vide afdvt dtd 05/04/2023.

I, NIVEDITHA, W/O. Raghavendran Sivashankar, R/O. no 107,kalpavriksha,1st blk,JP Nagar,9th Phase, Anjanapura,Blr– 62, have changed name to Niveditha Venkat Ramani vide afdvt dtd 04/04/23

I, RAGHAVENDRAN, S/O. Sivashankar, R/O.no 107,kalpavriksha,1st blk,JP Nagar,9th Phase, Anjanapura,Blr–62, have changed name to Raghavendran Sivashankar vide afdvt dtd 04/04/23

I, Vuddar Madhava Rao R/o G-003, Krishna Diamond Apts, Sahakar Nagar, B'luru-560092 have changed my minor daughter name from Vuddar Vaishnavi to Vuddar Vaishnavi Rao for all purposes.

I Eshwarappa Y S/o Yallappa, residing at 39, Kodipalli, Yadiyur, Mittemari, Chikkaballapur, Karnataka-561207, have changed the name of minor Son Nehan E aged 1 years and he shall hereafter be known as Adhvik E for all purposes in future.

I, S Ganesh S/O N Shivakumar resident at No.1635, sir M. vishweshvaraiah Layout 6th Block ullal bangalore – 560110, changed my name to S Karyan vide affidavit Dt:14/04/2023 Sworn before notary M.K.Devaki Reg.No.7341.Bangalore.

I, DEBEE Priyadarshini Nayak W/o Suvendu Keshari Nayak, R/o #104, 2nd Floor, Ram Lake View Apartment, 6th 'A' Cross, Vignan Nagar, Bengaluru-560037 have changed my name Debee Priyadarshini Nayak to Debee Priyadarshini vide affidavit dt: 27-02-2023 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'lore

I, Smt.SITHAVVA. (existing Name of Spouse as per NOK) is Legally Wedded Spouse of Late No.JC-7963, Rank EX RISALDAR, Name: A.C.Ponnappa, presently Residing at 4-539, Shivaramkaranth Extension, Kushalanagar Town, Kodagu Dist.571234, have changed my name from Sithavva to Seetha.A.C and my DOB is 05-03-1930 vide affidavit dated 17-04-2023 before Kushalnagar Notary Public S.K.Manjunatha.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VIDHISHAA Amit Kumar Ostwal also called as Vidhishaa R/o # 104, Thimmaiah Road, Bharathi Nagar, Bengaluru-560001 have changed my name to Vidhishaa A Ostwal vide affidavit dt: 27-02-2023 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'lore

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAJASHEKARA K R, R/a No.546, MIG-2, Surya City, Phase 1, Chandapura, Bengaluru-560099 have changed my name to Rajashekar Kurugodu Rachappa vide affidavit dt: 16.04.2023 sworn before Notary Smt.A.Manjula, B'lore.

IN THE COURT OF THE HONORABLE SECOND ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGE KURNOOL AT ADONI

M.O.P.No.6/2021
NOTICE THROUGH PUBLICATION
Between:
G.JAMES ...Petitioner
versus
G.KANTHAMMA ...Respondent
To,
G.KANTHAMMA, W/o: G.James R/o:23/1, Rajanna Layout, Horamavu, Bengaluru-560043. Karnataka.
Whereas, the above-named Petitioner Who is your husband has instituted the above Noted Petition against you under section 10 of Divorce Act for Decree of divorce. But in spite of sending of notice to you through court by registered post and you failed to receive the same and appear before the Honorable court to answer the claim of the petitioner.
You are hereby directed to appear before the court on 03.5.2023 at 10:30 am personally to answer the claim of the petitioner failing which the case will be heard and decided in your absence accordance with law.
By order of the Court.
Sd/-
K. SHAUKAT TABREZ
Advocate for Petitioner
#13/450, Khazipura, Adoni - 518301
Kurnool District, A. P

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL BENGALURU BENCH AT BENGALURU
In the Matter of Companies Act, 2013
And
In the Matter of Sections 66 and 52 of the Companies act, 2013
And
In the Matter of
DELVIT SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
CP No. 62/BB/ 2021
DELVIT SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
BHIVE Workspace
(Office Space & Coworking)
L-148, 5th Main Rd
Sector 6, HSR Layout
Bengaluru - 560 102, Karnataka
...**PETITIONER COMPANY**
NOTICE OF ORDER CONFIRMING REDUCTION OF SHARE CAPITAL
Notice is hereby given that, the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal at Bengaluru by its order dated the 31.03.2023, confirmed the reduction of share capital of the above-named company from Rs. 1,44,960/- (Rupees One Lakh Forty-Four Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty Only) consisting of 14,496 (Fourteen Thousand Four Hundred and Ninety-Six) equity shares of Rs. 10/- each fully paid-up to Rs. 73,620 (Rupees Seventy-Three Thousand Six Hundred and Twenty Only) consisting of 7,362 (Seven Thousand Three Hundred and Sixty-Two) shares of Rs. 10 each fully paid-up pursuant to cancelling and extinguishing 7,134 (Seven Thousand One Hundred and Thirty-Four) Equity Shares of Rs. 10/- each.
Dated this 18th Day of April 2023
SAJI P. JOHN
SPJ LEGAL
ADVOCATES
Unit No. 306, 3rd Floor,
30, Prestige Meridian II, M G Road
Bengaluru – 560 001
Email: saji@spjlegal.com

Gold ETFs inflow fell 74% to ₹653 cr. in FY23: AMFI

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Inflow in gold exchange-traded funds dropped 74% from a year earlier to ₹653 crore in FY23, mainly due to profit-booking in this asset class and investors' preference for equities.

According to data available with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi), 14-gold linked ETFs had seen an inflow of ₹653 crore in the year ended on March 31, 2023.

This was way below the ₹2,541 crore inflow seen in the segment in the fiscal year 2021-22 and ₹1,614 crore in 2019-20.

PwC to invest ₹600 cr. in employee well-being

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

PwC India on Monday said it would invest more than ₹600 crore in the next three years towards the holistic growth, development and well-being of its employees in the country.

The past three years have had a dramatic effect on people, and as a result, individuals were now reassessing what they want to do and how they want to work, the consulting firm said in a statement.

Appreciating this fundamental workforce shift, the firm said it would invest ₹600 crore through its new People Experience Framework, where its people would be able to experience infinite opportunities. "Our new People Experience Framework will bring in increased emphasis on growth and development, customised rewards, benefits and well-being that are stitched into our daily experiences, and where we have the flexibility to support our people as their lives and needs shift over time," said PwC India chairperson Sanjeev Krishan.

AI revises pilots' flying allowance

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Air India has revised pilots' guaranteed flying allowance to a sum equivalent to 40 hours of flying, which used to be at 70 hours of flying pre-pandemic, but was revised to 20 hours post-pandemic.

It also announced a combined seniority list for low-cost carriers in the Tata fold which include Air India Express and AirAsia India and full-service carriers such as Air India and Vistara such that for every 11 pilots from a full-service carrier who gets to command a wide body, one pilot from a low-cost carrier will also get to do so.

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SPECIAL MOMENT

Tendulkar watches son play a competitive game for first time

Sachin Tendulkar sat in the dressing room instead of team dug-out as he didn't want son Arjun to deviate from his plans on his IPL debut for MI. For the legendary father, it was the first time that he watched his son play a competitive game. "I wanted him to have the freedom to go out and express himself," Tendulkar said.

NOT YET OVER

He could definitely play again next year: Moeen on Dhoni

Moeen Ali feels M.S. Dhoni "could definitely" feature in the IPL next year, playing down the widespread supposition that this season will be the CSK captain's last. Dhoni came close to lifting CSK to a win over RR last week. "He could definitely play again next year. I don't think it'll be his batting that stops him from playing," Moeen said.

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

We can win nine out of nine, says Delhi Capitals' Ganguly

Despite suffering defeats in five consecutive matches, Delhi Capitals Director of Cricket Sourav Ganguly believes his team can script a comeback and win their remaining nine matches. "We need to put this behind us.We can't get worse than this. We can win nine out of nine," Ganguly said in a video shared by Delhi Capitals.

CHANGE OF DATE

Super Giants-Super Kings match in Lucknow rescheduled to May 3

The IPL match between Lucknow Super Giants and Chennai Super Kings, originally scheduled in Lucknow for May 4, has now been rescheduled to May 3. The fixture has been revised owing to the Lucknow Municipal Corporation election on May 4. There is no change in match timings and the game will begin at 3.30 p.m..

Super Kings top run fest against Royal Challengers

Conway, Rahane and Dube blast an abject home attack to smithereens before du Plessis and Maxwell return the favour; two crucial catches by Dhoni swings the game the visitors' way

Going hammer and tongs: Conway and Dube plundered runs at will before Maxwell threatened to win it for the hosts with a blitzkrieg. K. MURALI KUMAR

SCOREBOARD

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS

Ruturaj Gaikwad c Parnell b Siraj 3 (*6b*), Devon Conway b Harshal 83 (*45b, 6x4, 6x6*), Ajinkya Rahane b Hasaranga 37 (*20b, 3x4, 2x6*), Shivam Dube c Siraj b Parnell 52 (*27b, 2x4, 5x6*), Ambati Rayudu c Karthik b Vyshak 14 (*6b, 1x4, 1x6*), Moeen Ali (not out) 19 (*9b, 2x6*), Ravindra Jadeja c sub (Prabhudessai) b Maxwell 10 (*8b, 1x6*), M.S. Dhoni (not out) 1 (*1b*); Extras (lb-1, w-4, nb-2): 7; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 226.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-16 (Ruturaj, 2.2 overs), 2-90 (Rahane, 9.3), 3-170 (Conway, 15.4), 4-178 (Dube, 16.3), 5-198 (Rayudu, 17.4), 6-224 (Jadeja, 19.4).

RCB BOWLING

Siraj 4-0-30-1, Parnell 4-0-48-1, Vyshak 4-0-62-1, Maxwell 2.4-0-28-1, Hasaranga 2-0-21-1, Harshal 3.2-0-36-1.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS

Virat Kohli b Akash 6 (*4b, 1x4*), Faf du Plessis c Dhoni b Moeen 62 (*33b, 5x4, 4x6*), Mahipal Lomror c Ruturaj b Deshpande 0 (*5b*), Glenn Maxwell c Dhoni b Theekshana 76 (*36b, 3x4, 8x6*), Shahbaz Ahmed c Ruturaj b Pathirana 12 (*10b, 1x6*), Dinesh Karthik c Theekshana b Deshpande 28 (*14b, 3x4, 1x6*), Suyash Prabhudessai **(Impact Player in place of Siraj)** c Jadeja b Pathirana 19 (*11b, 2x6*), Wayne Parnell c Dube b Deshpande 2 (*5b*), Wanindu Hasaranga (not out) 2 (*2b*); Extras (lb-5, w-6): 11; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 218.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-6 (Kohli, 0.4), 2-15 (Lomror, 1.6), 3-141 (Maxwell, 12.1), 4-159 (du Plessis, 13.6), 5-191 (Karthik, 16.5), 6-192 (Shahbaz, 17.1), 7-197 (Parnell, 18.1), 8-218 (Prabhudessai, 19.6).

SUPER KINGS BOWLING

Akash **(Impact Player in place of Rayudu)** 3-0-35-1, Deshpande 4-0-45-3, Theekshana 4-0-41-1, Jadeja 4-0-37-0, Pathirana 4-0-42-2, Moeen 1-0-13-1.

Toss: RCB. **PoM:** Conway.

CSK won by eight runs.

Points Table

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Rajasthan Royals	5	**4**	1	8	1.354
Lucknow Super Giants	5	**3**	2	6	0.761
Chennai Super Kings	5	**3**	2	6	0.265
Gujarat Titans	5	**3**	2	6	0.192
Punjab Kings	5	**3**	2	6	-0.109
Kolkata Knight Riders	5	**2**	3	4	0.320
Royal Challengers Bangalore	5	**2**	3	4	-0.318
Mumbai Indians	4	**2**	2	4	-0.389
Sunrisers Hyderabad	4	**2**	2	4	-0.822
Delhi Capitals	5	**0**	5	0	-1.488

After the RCB-CSK match on April 17

IPL-16

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) survived a spirited fight from Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) to prevail by eight runs in their IPL clash at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Monday.

The high voltage affair between the traditional rivals produced an exciting run fest, with a total of 444 runs scored on the night.

Chasing 227, RCB took a no-holds-barred approach to scare the visitor. Captain Faf du Plessis (62, 33b, 5x4, 4x6) and Glenn Maxwell (76, 36b, 3x4, 8x6) went berserk, putting on 126 runs in 10.1 overs. RCB was on top when the duo was going great guns.

Like he has done many times in the past, CSK skipper M.S. Dhoni found a way to bail his side out of trouble.

Dhoni kept his cool and latched on to two tough skiers to send du Plessis and Maxwell back to the pavilion, in what turned out to be match-winning catches.

With the batting mainstays out of the way, RCB could not stay afloat.

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) feasted on a sumptuous spread offered by Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) to rack up a mammoth 226 for six in their IPL clash at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Monday.

Devon Conway (83, 45b, 6x6, 6x4), Ajinkya Rahane (37, 20b, 3x4, 2x6) and Shivam Dube (52, 27b, 2x4, 5x6) hammered the RCB attack, which was badly off the mark.

The bowlers - pacers Wayne Parnell, V. Vyshak and Harshal Patel in particular – served up an assortment of full tosses, overpitched deliveries and half-trackers to make life easy for the batters.

Next assignment

RCB: April 20 vs. **PBKS**
Mohali, 3.30 p.m.

CSK: April 21 vs. **SRH**
Chennai, 7.30 p.m.

Paddle sweep

Conway favoured the leg-side, rocking back and pulling with great authority. The New Zealand opener also used the paddle-sweep to throw the bowlers off target.

Dube launched the full tosses into the stands, en route to his first fifty of this tournament.

Rahane hit the shot of the day, hooking a short ball from Parnell onto the stadium roof.

RCB's woes were completed when Harshal was barred from completing the final over for bowling two no-balls above the waist. Maxwell stepped in to finish proceedings.

Siraj impresses

Mohammed Siraj was the best bowler on view, finishing with figures of one for 30 in his four overs.

The packed crowd was thrilled to welcome CSK skipper M.S. Dhoni to the crease. Dhoni walked in with two balls remaining, and could only manage a single.

Tactical mistake

The home team erred on the tactical front.

Left-arm spinner Shahbaz Ahmed did not get a bowl, leaving him to don the unfamiliar role of specialist batter.

Wanindu Hasaranga was given only two overs, while Vyshak bowled his full quota despite going for plenty.

Vyshak, who starred with three wickets in the previous outing, conceded 62 runs in his four overs.

Interesting contest likely as Mumbai Indians and Sunrisers keen to keep winning momentum

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

Two teams – Sunrisers Hyderabad and Mumbai Indians – that have rediscovered winning ways, after early disappointments, clash at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium here on Tuesday night.

It will also be a contest between equals as the former champions – with four points each from four games – look to keep the momentum going.

A spell of heavy rain greeted SRH at its training session late this evening.

The Rohit Sharma-led Mumbai Indians appears better suited to chasing, rather than setting, targets, given the weak links in its bowling.

Pacer Arjun Tendulkar, son of the great Sachin Tendulkar, did impress on his debut against Kolkata Knight Riders the other night and should look to keep improving.

Something special: Local boy Tilak Varma will be looking to shine in front of his 'home crowd'. AP

Fast bowlers Riley Meredith and left-armer Duan Jansen and veteran leggie Piyush Chawla are expected to trouble the home team which saw gifted Englishman Harry Brook score a magnificent century against Kolkata at Eden Gardens last week.

TODAY'S MATCH

SUNRISERS vs. MUMBAI INDIANS

Hyderabad, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: **19**

SRH **9** | MI **10**

PREVIOUS MEETING

SRH won by three runs, 2022

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA APP

It was a welcome return to form by southpaw and opener Ishan Kishan in the previous game.

Suryakumar Yadav also seemed to have put behind him the batting horrors of previous games.

It will be a special moment if local boy and the fast-improving Tilak Varma plays for Mumbai in front of his 'home crowd'.

On the other hand, Sunrisers should be pleased to see captain Aiden Markram come back with a brilliant half-century in the previous game.

The bowling attack, spearheaded by swing merchant Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Marco Jansen, backed by left-arm pacer T. Natarajan, who was no doubt expensive against Kolkata in the last match, and fiery Umran Malik holds the key with spinners Mayank Markande and Washington Sundar expected to raise the bar.

It should be an exciting contest on a pitch that looks perfect for Twenty20 action.

Samson announces return to form with sublime knock

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

You are the captain and have two had successive blobs. The team is four for two, chasing a target of 178, when you take guard. And you set the win up by making a mockery of arguably the best T20 bowler in the world. Welcome to the world of Sanju Samson.

The Rajasthan Royals skipper ticked all the boxes on Sunday night while laying the foundation for his team's first win against champion Gujarat Titans.

No wonder then that the Royals skipper was chased by autograph-seekers at the airport as he, along with director of cricket Kumar Sangakkara left Ahmedabad, before the rest of the team.

Samson. VIJAY SONEJI

"The captain absorbed a lot of pressure there. He chose the moment to try and push the game forward. He was nicely backed up by others," said Trent Boult after the Royals' win.

Watching Samson in full flow is a treat for a fan. When he is at his nonchalant best, he makes even the best of the bowlers look ordinary. His perfect cover drive off his Titans counterpart Hardik Pandya in the eight over proved that he had regained his silken touch.

And the three consecutive sixes off Rashid Khan, hit without much fuss in the 12th over, underlined the fact that he was eyeing not just his form but the bigger prize of overhauling a target that was an uphill task at the halfway mark.

While he couldn't carry on till the end, Hetmyer's blitzkrieg ensured that Samson was ecstatic and not agonising at the end of the game.

INBRIEF

Rupesh Shah to take on Dhruv Sitwala in the quarters

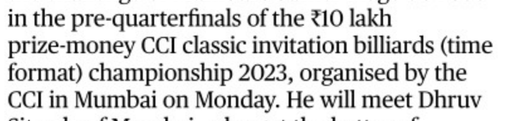
Rupesh Shah, *in pic.*, of Gujarat brushed aside the challenge of Mumbai's Sumer Mago 984-399 in the pre-quarterfinals of the ₹10 lakh prize-money CCI classic invitation billiards (time format) championship 2023, organised by the CCI in Mumbai on Monday. He will meet Dhruv Sitwala of Mumbai, who got the better of Siddharth Parikh 559-455, in the last-eight.

The results: Pre-quarterfinals: Rupesh Shah bt Sumer Mago 984-399; Dhruv Sitwala Siddharth Parikh 558-455. Ishpreet Singh bt Durga Prasad 821-582; Sourav Kothari bt Loukic Pathare 1179-388.

Baek Woong Ki to work with recurve team before WC

In a big boost to Indian archery ahead of the 2024 Paris Games, the Archery Association of India has hired Olympic gold medal-winning coach Baek Woong Ki to work with the recurve team. The AAI also has roped in two-time Italian World Cup winner Sergio Pagni.

The teams: **Recurve**: **Men**: B. Dhiraj, Atanu Das, Tarundeep Rai and Neeraj Chauhan; **Recurve**: **Women**: Bhajan Kaur, Aditi Jaiswal, Ankita Bhakat and Simranjit Kaur; **Compound**: **Men**: Prathmesh Jawhar, Rajat Chauhan, Ojas Deotale and Rishab Yadav; **Compound**: **Women**: Avneet Kaur, V. Jyothi Surekha, Aditi Swamy and Sakshi Choudhary.



Jayasuriya bags five as Sri Lanka takes control

Sadeera Samarawickrama and Dinesh Chandimal hit unbeaten centuries before Prabath Jayasuriya claimed a five-for as Sri Lanka put Ireland to the sword on the second day of the first cricket Test here on Monday. Sri Lanka declared its first innings at a mammoth 591 for six before reducing Ireland to 117 for seven, still needing another 274 to avoid follow-on. Lorcan Tucker was batting on 21 at close, with Andy McBrine on five.

The scores: Sri Lanka 591/6 decl. in 131 overs (D. Karunaratne 179, K. Mendis 140, D. Chandimal 102 n.o., S. Samarawickrama 104 n.o.) vs Ireland first innings 117/7 in 45 over (J. McCollum 35, H. Tector 34, Jayasuriya 5/42).

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: MTV, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 5 a.m.

Sri Lanka vs Ireland: 1st Test, day 3, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10 a.m.

World Chess championship: FIDE & *Chess.com YouTube* channels, 2.30 p.m. onwards

Super Cup football: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5 & 8.30 p.m.

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.

Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Atletico beats Almeria to stay right behind Real in LaLiga

Roma consolidates third place in Serie A with easy win over Udinese while Juventus stumbles against Sassuolo damaging its push to regain a top-four slot

EURO LEAGUES

Agencies
BARCELONA

Pumped up: Griezmann celebrates after scoring Atletico's first against Almeria. AFP

Third-place Atletico Madrid beat Almeria with a narrow 2-1 win at home with Antoine Griezmann netting a brace as he continued his sparkling form in La Liga on Sunday.

Atletico stayed two points behind Real Madrid.

Antoine Griezmann headed Atletico ahead in the fifth minute when Angel Correa nodded on a corner to the back post.

Fans at the Metropolitano gave Correa an ovation in the 10th minute, in his first appearance after the death of his mother last week.

Diego Simeone's side was dominant throughout, but Almeria pulled level when Leo Baptistao's shot deflected in off Jose Gimenez.

Griezmann sent the Rojiblancos ahead again before the break, finishing clinically from Yannick Carrasco's pass at the end of a fine team move for his 11th league goal.

Roma consolidated third place in Serie A with a 3-0 win over Udinese, which also had a penalty saved.

Roma moved three points above AC Milan and five points above fifth-place Inter Milan after they both dropped points on Saturday.

The top four in Serie A qualify for next season's Champions League.

Juventus lost 1-0 at Sassuolo earlier Sunday, meaning Roma was the only team to win after being involved in European action midweek.

The results:

LaLiga: Atletico Madrid 2 (Griezmann 5, 43) bt Almeria 1 (Gimenez 37-og); Valencia 0 lost to Sevilla 2 (Bade 55, Suso 75).

Serie A: Lecce 1 (Ceesay 31) drew with Sampdoria 1 (Rodriguez 75); Torino 1 (Sanabria 57) drew with Salernitana 1 (Vilhena 9); Sassuolo 1 (Defrel 64) bt Juventus 0; Roma 3 (Bove 37, Pellegrini 55, Abraham 90+1) bt Udinese 0.

Osimhen the key for Napoli against Milan

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Associated Press
ROME

Osimhen. REUTERS

AC Milan can move one step closer to reviving its past European glory. Napoli can add another milestone to its extraordinary season.

Figuring out which team will come out on top after the second leg of their all-Italian Champions League quarterfinal on Tuesday at the Stadio Diego Armando Maradona may come down to the status of their centre forwards.

Serie A scoring leader Victor Osimhen is back from an injured abductor muscle in his left leg that kept him out of Milan's 1-0 win in the first game last week. And now veteran Milan striker Olivier Giroud is an injury concern with an Achilles tendon problem.

Milan won the last of its seven European Cup and Champions League titles in 2007, while Napoli is playing in the quarterfinals for the first time.

"Osimhen has this physicality and speed whereby you can throw the ball up to him and he can protect it, use his head or use a change of pace," Napoli coach Luciano Spalletti said.

The 24-year-old Osimhen has been one of the top strikers in Europe this season with 25 goals in 29 appearances across all competitions.

At age 36, Giroud leads Milan with 12 goals in 37 games. But the France international had to sit out training on Sunday, possibly leaving coach Stefano Pioli to choose from Ante Rebic and Divock Origi as a replacement.

In the day's other game, Real Madrid takes a 2-0 first-leg lead into its quarterfinal against Chelsea.

The fixtures: Napoli vs AC Milan, Chelsea vs Real Madrid 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday).

East Bengal ousted after stalemate against Aizawl

SUPER CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
MANJERI

Nodding home: Passi heads in East Bengal's second against Aizawl. SAKEER HUSSAIN

East Bengal needed to win big, but despite taking a 2-0 lead within 22 minutes, it failed to finish the job against Aizawl FC on Monday. The 2-2 draw in Group B marked the end of the road for the ISL side from Kolkata in the Super Cup; Aizawl had already gone out of contention.

Odisha FC later claimed the semifinals spot from the group after defeating Hyderabad FC 2-1. Even a draw would have been enough for Odisha, while it was a must-win match for Hyderabad.

East Bengal went ahead in the 17th minute. The goal resulted from an excellent through ball by Cleiton Silva to the left flank. He found Naorem Mahesh Singh, who put the ball firmly past the Aizawl goalkeeper Vanlal Hriatpuia.

Five minutes later, Sumeet Passi doubled the lead for East Bengal, heading home a fine cross by V.P. Suhair from the right. But Aizawl pulled one back shortly before the interval, through H.K. Lalhruaitluanga off an assist from David Lalhlansanga.

Three minutes into the second half, Lalhlansanga put his own name on the scorers' list, with a brilliant long-ranger to make it 2-2.

Meanwhile, further changes have been made to the schedule. The semifinals and the final will now kick off at 7 p.m. instead of 8.30 p.m.

The last two matches in Group D will have a simultaneous kick-off (8.30 p.m.).

Mumbai City will face Chennaiyin FC here, while NorthEastern United will meet Churchill Brothers at Kozhikode.

The results: East Bengal 2 (Naorem Mahesh Singh 17, Sumeet Passi 22) drew with Aizawl FC 2 (H.K. Lalhruaitluanga 42, David Lalhlansanga 48). Odisha FC 2 (Diego Mauricio 55, Victor Rodriguez 86) bt Hyderabad 1 (Javier Siverio 11).

Sathiyan, Sharath back for Petroleum TT tournament

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Leading the charge: The experienced Sharath Kamal and Sathiyan will spearhead their respective sides. FILE PHOTO

The cream of country's men's table tennis will be on view when the 41st Petroleum inter-unit table tennis tournament opens at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium here on Tuesday.

Defending champion ONGC – led by National champion G. Sathiyan, Harmeet Desai, A. Amalraj, Jubin Kumar and Saurav Saha – appears the favourite to retain the men's title.

Indian Oil will look to regain the crown by riding on the skill sets of 10-time National champion Sharath Kamal, Manav Thakkar and Sudhanshu Grover.

Among the other six teams, Oil India headed by Subhajit Saha looks the best bet to be in the semifinals.

Bharat Petroleum, in spite of having two former National champions Sanil Shetty and Soumyajit Ghosh have not fielded a team due to absence of a third player.

Among the women, Manika Batra's absence is unlikely to affect the title-defence of Indian Oil. Krittwika Sinha Roy, Reeth Rishya, Archana Kamath and K. Shamini carry enough firepower for Indian Oil.

ONGC, with experienced players like Divya Deshpande, Pooja Sahasrabudhe, Ankita Das and Mousmi Paul, should test Indian Oil.

The presence of the vastly-experienced Mouma Das and youngsters like Yashaswini Ghorpade and Trisha Gogoi makes Oil India the strongest among the other three teams.

During the four-day competition, the individual events will be held after the team competitions for men, women and veterans.

Double joy for Nithya Sre and Thulasimathi

PARA BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
SAO PAULO

Thulasimathi..fruitful campaign
TWITTER/TANUVAS_TWEETS

India's Nithya Sre Sumathy Sivan and Thulasimathi Murugesan claimed a double at the Brazil Para-Badminton International here on Sunday.

The 18-year-old Nithya defeated Peru's Giuliana Poveda Flores 22-20, 21-11 in the SH6 women's singles final and combined with Sivarajan Solaimalai to beat Hong Kong's Chu Man Kai and Choi Wing Kei 21-11, 21-17 in the mixed doubles summit clash.

Thulasimathi, who beat France's Maud Lefort 21-12, 21-18 for the honours in the women's SU5 category, paired up with Manasi Joshi to beat compatriots Manisha Ramadass and Mandeep Kaur 21-11, 21-10 for the gold in the SL3-SU5 category.

Nitesh trumps Bhagat

In the SL3 men's singles final, Nitesh got the better of Tokyo Paralympic champion Pramod Bhagat 21-12, 21-13.

Sukant Kadam took bronze. However, Pramod and Sukant struck gold in SL3-SL4 men's doubles after defeating the Korean pair of Joo Dongjae and Shin Kyung Hwan 22-20, 21-19.

Other final results (involving Indians): Men: SL4 singles: Lucas Mazur (Fra) bt Tarun 21-7, 21-13.

SU5 doubles: Fareez Anuar & Cheah Liek Hou (Mas) bt Chirag Baretha & Raj Kumar 21-13, 21-18.

WH1-WH2 doubles: Daiki Kajiwara & Hiroshi Murayama (Jpn) bt Prem Kumar Ale & Abu Hubaida 21-3, 21-17.

Women: SL3: Halime Tildiz (Tur) bt Manasi Joshi 21-11, 18-21, 21-9.

Mixed doubles: SL3-SU5: Hikmat Ramdani & Leani Ratri Oktila (Ina) bt Nitesh & Thulasimathi 21-18, 21-9.

Indian male boxers leave for Tashkent camp

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

A 19-member Indian men's boxing team left for Tashkent on Monday to take part in a multi-nation training camp ahead of the World Championship, scheduled from April 30 to May 14.

Six-time Asian Championship medallist Shiva Thapa and 2019 Asian silver medallist Deepak Bhoria will headline the Indian squad.

There are 13 men, who will be taking part in the marquee event. However another six boxers have been added for the multi-nation training camp, which includes 2018 Asian Games gold medallist Amit Panghal.

Chennai to host Asian Champions Trophy from August 3

HOCKEY

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Marking the occasion: Udhayanidhi Stalin presents a memento to Bhola Nath Singh. R. RAGU

The seventh Asian men's Champions Trophy hockey tournament will be held at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium here from August 3 to 12. This is the first time the tournament will be held in India.

Confirming this at a press conference on Monday, Tamil Nadu Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development Udhayanidhi Stalin said the State Government would go all out to ensure the tournament becomes a huge success.

The last time an International hockey tournament was held in the city was in 2007 when the Asia Cup was conducted.

Hockey India secretary Bhola Nath Singh said, "Odisha is renowned all over the world for its hockey. Hockey India will provide support to Udhayanidhi's initiative to create a similar hockey hub in TN," he said.

Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu member secretary J. Meghanatha Reddy said a new turf would be laid at the stadium and search was on for a place to lay a practice turf.

India, Pakistan, Malaysia, South Korea, Japan and China are expected to take part. April 25th will be the last date for the withdrawal of entries.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Decathlon Hockey wins big

Decathlon Hockey thrashed Leo's Sports Club 6-1 in the Travancore Cup hockey tournament here on Monday.

The results: New Ashoka HC 2 (John Charan 15, 35) drew with Samant Sports Academy 2 (Darshan 30, Poovarasan 45); Decathlon Hockey 6 (Roshan Somaiah 5, Palgun 14, 49, Mandy 35, Deshik 43, Preetham Poonacha 45) bt Leo's Sports Club 1 (N. Ganesh 12).

Faheem excels for PESCA

Faheem's all-round effort (40 & 2/24) helped PESCA defeat CCE by 40 runs in the Tiger Cup U-12 cricket tournament here on Monday.

The scores: PESCA 157 in 17.3 overs (Faheem 40, Karthikeya 33, Chiranthan 4/43, Raghav Achar 3/20) bt CCE 117 in 25.3 overs (Mohit 30, Faheem 2/24, Karthikeya 2/12).